

Queen Elizabeth sends goodwishes to King

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein received on Tuesday a message from Queen Elizabeth expressing regret at the news of his illness. She also conveyed her and Prince Philip's best wishes for a full and speedy recovery.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية، الراي.

Volume 23 Number 6908

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1998, RABI II 13, 1419

Price: Jordan 200 fils

Regent calls for patience on King's homecoming

Doctor: Outcome of second chemotherapy session, due Aug. 20, will determine Monarch's return date

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday reassured Jordanians about His Majesty King Hussein's health and called on the people to be patient about the homecoming of the King who is undergoing treatment at Mayo Clinic in the U.S.

"There is nothing to worry about. The treatment is going fine and the King's health is reassuring and his morale is high. He is being briefed on the details of our life as if he is amongst us," added the Regent in statements to the media after presiding over a Cabinet meeting.

"If you were to listen to our telephone conversations you would ask: 'What is the problem?' The problem is the geographical distance, but he is close to everything that is going on," Prince Hassan noted.

He told reporters "I have no idea about the time King Hussein will return home. I am not a physician, I am the King's brother. I do not believe that any Jordanian wishes our King fly back to Amman before he completes his medical treatment. People should be patient."

Earlier the King's private physician Dr. Samir Farraj said in a statement to Al Sharq Al Awsat daily pub-



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan talks to the press after attending the Cabinet session on Tuesday (Photo by Youssef 'Allan')

lished in London that the King's treatment at Mayo Clinic is progressing well and the King is responding very well.

Dr. Farraj was quoted as saying that King Hussein is taking his meals regularly and undergoing physical exercises in the morning and evening among other activities.

Asked about the time when he is due to return to Jordan, Dr. Farraj said that this will be decided upon the advice of the doctors supervising his treatment, noting that it also depends

on the outcome of the second session of chemotherapy due on August 20 at the latest.

Regent reiterates support for PNA

In his remarks to the media after the Cabinet session, Prince Hassan expressed hope for an end to the current impasse in peace making and said that it is too early to judge the current negotiations between the Palestinian National Authority and Israel.

The Prince who reiterated Jordan's support for the Palestinian people to regain their rights on their national soil said: "We await what the coming days will bring to us."

He also pointed out that technical points have been discussed in detail and it remains to be seen whether the region will witness progress towards comprehensive peace or retreat to the no-war-no-peace situation which would lead to further tension.

(Continued on page 7)

Butler leaves Baghdad after Iraq's refusal to extend UNSCOM probe

Agencies

CHIEF U.N. arms inspector Richard Butler said on Tuesday that Iraq had rejected his proposal to extend his work on missile and chemical weapons for another month and instead demanded he close his files immediately.

Mr. Butler, who cut short his Baghdad visit, said on arrival in Bahrain that the request was submitted to him by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz during talks in the Iraqi capital. "I was disappointed that Mr. Aziz was not prepared to accept my suggestion of a further accelerated work programme," Mr. Butler told Reuters in an interview.

"I told him that I believed that if we did that work programme for the next four or five weeks and experienced full Iraqi cooperation, I could have been in a position to report to the Security Council the end or very near the end of the missile and chemical weapons files."

"That [extension of the work programme] would have been important achievements," he said.

Mr. Butler and his 19-strong team including his deputy Charles Duelfer flew to Bahrain from Baghdad after running into serious difficulties in his talks with Iraqi officials.



Richard Butler talks to the press upon arrival in Bahrain on Tuesday (AP photo)

Bahrain is the field headquarters of U.N. missions visiting Iraq to eliminate weapons of mass destruction in line with 1991 Gulf war cease-fire terms.

"He [Aziz] has demanded that I report to the Council that all disarmament is already completed. I don't have sufficient evidence to do that report," Mr. Butler said, adding: "Naturally, I said I couldn't do what he asked."

Meanwhile, Russia and France warned against fuelling tensions.

"It is now extremely important not to stoke tensions over Iraq but to steer things toward

continuing normal cooperation between Iraq and the U.N. Special Commission to fulfil completely the U.N. Security Council resolutions," Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Vladimir Rakhmanin told a news briefing in Moscow.

"The Russian side intends to act in this spirit," he added.

The French Foreign Ministry said in a statement "We are worried by indications from Mr. Butler about the lack of progress in talks with Iraq."

"We repeat that good cooperation between UNSCOM [the United Nations Special Commission] and Iraq is necessary and unavoidable if

sanctions imposed by the Security Council are to be lifted," it added.

Mr. Butler said he would fly to New York later on Tuesday to report to the Security Council on Thursday morning and it would be for the Council to decide the next step.

Asked what he would do next, Mr. Butler said: "My job is to return to New York to report this stage of affairs to the Security Council. I can't go into details until I do that."

"It's up to the Security Council to decide where we go next. I can't really go beyond that."

"I am not going to characterize the talks as failure. They are what they are and the results of them have been taken to New York."

Iraq is reeling under crippling U.N. trade and economic sanctions imposed after its forces invaded Kuwait in August, 1990. The sanctions are unlikely to be lifted until weapons inspectors certify that Iraq is free from prohibited weapons.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan in February averted a threatened attack against Iraq by U.S. and British forces massed in the Gulf when he negotiated an agreement promising U.N. weapons teams access to all sites for inspection.

PNA rejects Israeli pullback proposals Kahalani in Amman Thursday

By Gbadeer Taber
Special to the Jordan Times

RAMALLAH (AFP) — Palestinians rejected on Tuesday Israel's latest proposals for new troop withdrawals from the West Bank, but they stopped short of carrying out a threat to break off negotiations.

Palestinian officials said the ideas, presented by Israel on Monday, set unacceptable limits on Palestinian control over the 13 per cent more of West Bank land which would be transferred to some form of self-rule under a U.S.-drafted peace proposal.

"The ideas were completely rejected by us," said Nabil Abu Rudeina, a top aide to Palestinian National Authority (PNA) head Yasser Arafat.

Speaking in Ramallah, Mr. Arafat said: "What was presented to us yesterday has nothing to do with the American initiative and signed agreements."

He said Monday's encounter between Israeli and Palestinian negotiators had been no more successful than six similar meetings over the previous two weeks in trying to break a 17-month deadlock in peace talks.

AMMAN — Israeli Minister of Internal Security Avigdor Kahalani will visit Jordan Thursday for talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on ways of trying to breathe new life into the faltering Middle East peace process, a Jordanian official said Tuesday.

The visit by the head of the Third Way Party, a member of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing coalition in the Knesset, follows recent visits by four prominent members of the opposition to the Kingdom, and comes as peace talks with Israel could be suspended because of Israel's failure to present acceptable proposals for breaking a 16-month-old deadlock.

Head of the Labour Party Ehud Barak, Former Prime Minister Shimon Peres, labour Knesset member Yossi Beilin visited Jordan last month and discussed with His Majesty

King Hussein and Prince Hassan the stalled Israeli-Palestinian track. Meretz Party leader Yossi Sarid Monday held talks with the Crown Prince.

"Mr. Kahalani is coming here as head of the Third Way Party, which could hold the balance of power in the right-wing coalition, rather than as minister of internal security," said a senior official. "Of course, bilateral issues could come up but that will not be the focus of the discussions."

The Third Way, which has four members among the 63-member right-wing coalition in the 120-seat Knesset, has shown flexibility towards a political settlement with the Palestinians and could support an Israeli second and third troop redeployment from the West Bank.

However, the party, which derives its support from former hawks of the Labour Party and moderate Likud members, is

(Continued on page 7)

Upon King's directives and Regent's orders Ensour sets up an independent panel to investigate water crisis

By Ahmad Khatib
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday ordered the formation of an independent committee of inquiry to investigate the current water crisis.

"His Majesty King Hussein has issued directives to look for the truth regarding the water issue," Prince Hassan told reporters after chairing a Cabinet session. The Prince ordered the forming of an investigation committee from outside the Water Ministry and maybe by the Ministry of Justice.

The Regent also called on the authorities to make available alternative sources of water as one of the main priorities for public spending.

Prince Hassan underlined the need to give due attention to the leakage of water from the water networks.

He emphasised the fact that people are concerned with securing fresh and clean water sources. He warned against attempts by some "who might try to whip up this issue for objectives."

In response to the Regent's directives, Acting Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour instantly formed a committee to deal with the drinking water crisis which started in the first week of July when western Amman residents complained that the water reaching their homes was polluted.

The committee will be chaired by Eid Lawzi, the Justice Ministry's secretary general and includes

Ibrahim Badran, the director general of Palestinian affairs at the Prime Ministry, and Mohammed Adaleh as well as representatives of the general corporation for environment protection at the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, the Royal Medical Services and the University of Jordan.

According to Dr. Ensour, the committee will determine the sources of larvae as well as worms found and the source of bad odour, study the method followed by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and the Ministry of Health in testing water, determine the negligent party responsible for the failure in maintaining the water treatment stations, study the policies and procedures of the Ministry

of Water, and examine the qualifications of the ministry's technical staff.

The committee will submit its report within two weeks, Dr. Ensour added.

Meanwhile, a parliamentary committee yesterday challenged the government's contention that "human and operational errors" at the main Zai Treatment Plant (ZTP) feeding the capital were the cause of the crisis, for the second day in a row.

Munther Haddadin, minister of water and irrigation, said last week that officers manning the ZTP should have reduced the volume of water passing through the filters and should have increased the amount of carbon used to

(Continued on page 7)

King Fahd will leave hospital in '2 or 3 days'

RIYADH (AFP) — Saudi King Fahd will be discharged from hospital in "two or three days" after undergoing minor surgery for an inflamed colon, a Saudi official told AFP.

"The king's health is good and he should leave hospital in the next two or three days," said the official, who requested anonymity.

The king, who is in his late-70s, was hospitalised Sunday. A statement from the royal palace Monday said the king had been removed from his abdomen under local anaesthesia following an inflammation of the colon.

The statement said the king would spend several days in

the King Faisal Specialist Hospital in Riyadh, the best equipped medical facility in the kingdom.

A diplomatic source told AFP the king had suffered from a serious illness at his home in the Red Sea port of Jeddah from which he had recovered. But his doctors had asked for hospital tests as a precaution.

Sunday's hospitalisation was the latest alarm over the health of the monarch. He was hospitalised in March suffering from an inflamed gall bladder and in November 1995 after suffering a stroke.

Meanwhile, Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul



King Fahd

Aziz, who has in the past ruled the kingdom while his half-brother is ill, resumed his tour of the south-west Baha region on Tuesday.

Prince Abdullah suspended

his tour Sunday when news of the king's hospitalisation was announced.

King Fahd appeared relaxed in a Saudi television broadcast late on Sunday from the Riyadh hospital suite where he was admitted for medical tests.

After a first broadcast that showed him weak, tired and in a wheelchair just after his admission, the second showed him smiling and chatting with Saudi princes.

King Fahd, believed to have been born in 1921, has reigned for 16 years over a country which is the world's largest petroleum producer and exporter, and holds a quarter of its oil reserves.

Egypt expects U.S. to make proposal public 'Aug. 10'

CAIRO (R) — Egypt said on Tuesday it expected the United States to go public shortly with details of a plan aimed at reviving the stalled Middle East peace process.

"We expect that the U.S. would go public with its initiative and its results around August 10," Presidential Adviser Osama Al Baz, who has mediated between Palestinians and Israelis, told reporters on Tuesday.

"The coming few days will reveal the fate of the American initiative," he said.

Mr. Baz gave no details about the date but Arab countries have been calling on the United States to declare the results of informal talks with Israel and the Palestinians.

The United States is proposing that Israel hand over to the Palestinians 13 per cent more West Bank land over three months and that Palestinians take security measures against militants.

Palestinians have agreed but Israel says it is ready to withdraw from only nine per cent of the West Bank.

In a three-way summit in Cairo last month Jordanian, Egyptian and Palestinian leaders said any Arab action would be taken only after the United States had exhausted its proposal.

"If the United States hits a dead end then it should not be left alone facing Israel," Mr. Baz said.

Barak: Israel must take risks for peace

WASHINGTON (R) — Israeli opposition leader Ehud Barak, on a U.S. visit criticised by Israel's government, called Tuesday on the Jewish state to take calculated risks for a peace deal with the Palestinians while it had the chance.

Mr. Barak said at a press breakfast that if the present window of opportunity slipped away, Israel risked turning into a new Bosnia or Northern Ireland.

Mr. Barak said he and other Labour Party leaders were visiting Washington to meet U.S. officials and members of Congress to show there were different views in Israel, despite charges by the ruling Likud Party that the trip could harm the country.

The visit came as direct talks between Israel and the Palestinians appeared deadlocked, with the two sides no nearer agreement on a U.S. initiative to break more than 16 months of paralysis.

Mr. Barak said that to win long-term security, Israel needed to "separate ourselves physically from the Palestinians," to reach a peace agreement with them and to end conflicts with its Arab neighbours, while preserving security "red lines."

It should be "ready to take certain calculated risks in order to avoid the alternative which might become inevitably a re-eruption of violence in the Middle East," he said.

Arafat turns 69

RAMALLAH (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat turned 69 on Tuesday, but his birthday was marred by a new setback in the troubled peace process with Israel and nagging concerns about the state of his health.

Aides said they planned to present Mr. Arafat with a cake to celebrate his birthday, but only late at night following one of the Palestinian leader's typically busy days.

Mr. Arafat travelled early Tuesday from his Gaza City headquarters to the West Bank city of Ramallah where he held talks with visiting Romanian Prime Minister Radu Vasile and scheduled a series of high-level meetings, including a gathering of the PLO Executive Committee.

Belying rumours that he is suffering from Parkinson's Disease or other serious illnesses, Mr. Arafat appeared lively and relaxed at a joint press conference with Mr. Vasile during which he denounced Israel's latest position in the beleaguered peace process (See story on page 1).

Rumours that his health was failing notably surfaced after television appearances last year during which Mr. Arafat appeared weak and distracted with his lower lip trembling uncontrollably.

Mr. Arafat's doctors have denied rumours he was suffering from Parkinson's Disease, a debilitating but non-fatal nerve disorder.

But they acknowledged that the ageing leader grappled with bouts of depression and fatigue, notably due to frustration linked to the stalled peace process.

More than 20 killed in Algeria — press

ALGIERS (AFP) — More than 20 people were killed by armed Islamic groups in weekend violence in Algeria, the country's press reported Tuesday.

Nine members of a self-defence group were shot Saturday near Bouira, 100 kilometres east of Algiers, the daily Al Khabar said, without giving details.

Newspapers meanwhile gave differing tolls from an ambush reported earlier on a coach near Saïda, south-west of Algiers, on Sunday.

Most papers reported the official toll of 12 dead and six injured, saying the coach had come under fire, and said 12 attackers were killed immediately afterwards by security forces.

La Tribune, however, said 27 people died when attackers, dressed as police officers, stopped the coach at a road block and killed the passengers one by one by cutting their throats.

The bodies of a shepherd and his son, kidnapped Thursday by an armed Islamist group, were found Monday with their throats cut near the town of Tenes, west of Algiers, the regional daily Le Quotidien d'Oran reported.

Mr. Arafat's doctors have denied rumours he was suffering from Parkinson's Disease, a debilitating but non-fatal nerve disorder.

But they acknowledged that the ageing leader grappled with bouts of depression and fatigue, notably due to frustration linked to the stalled peace process.

Saudi crown prince's son in Tehran for private visit

RIYADH (AFP) — Saudi Prince Turki bin Abdullah, son of the Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz, began a private visit to Iran on Tuesday, an Iranian diplomat based in Riyadh told AFP.

The one-week visit will include a meeting with Iran's President Mohammad Khatami and former President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the diplomat said.

Ties between Tehran and Riyadh have thawed since Mr. Khatami's election in May 1997 and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference's December meeting in Tehran, which Prince Abdullah attended.

Mr. Rafsanjani undertook an official ten-day visit to Saudi Arabia in February this year, followed by a visit from Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi.

Last week, Prince Abdullah and Mr. Khatami spoke on the telephone, following Iran's announcement that it had tested a new missile with a range of 1,300 kilometres.

Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi has said Iran's new missile strength was "essentially defensive" and will not be used first against any other country.

Kurdish rebel group accuses rival of killing local leader

CAIRO (AP) — One of the main Kurdish groups in northern Iraq on Tuesday accused a Turkish rebel faction of killing one of its local leaders by booby-trapping his house.

Delshad Miran, a spokesman for the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), said KDP leader Khalid Tawfiq and his family were killed Sunday in the explosion.

He blamed fighters from the Kurdish Workers Party, or PKK, of Turkey.

The KDP, which shares control over the enclave with the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, has been fighting the PKK. PKK fighters carry out attacks on Turkey from their bases in northern Iraq.

Mr. Miran, reached in London by phone from Cairo, accused the PKK of planting explosives in Tawfiq's house in Dohuk, 60 kilometres south of the Turkish border.

The PKK, which shares control over the enclave with the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, has been fighting the PKK. PKK fighters carry out attacks on Turkey from their bases in northern Iraq.

Mr. Miran, reached in London by phone from Cairo, accused the PKK of planting explosives in Tawfiq's house in Dohuk, 60 kilometres south of the Turkish border.

Vasile visits Romanian workers in Israel

MODIIN (AP) — Excited Romanian workers welcomed visiting Prime Minister Radu Vasile to their hostel on Tuesday, plying him with their personal stories and complaints.

Mr. Vasile listened intently as 33-year-old Steluta Samir told him he had not been paid in two months, and that no one seemed to care.

"I must analyse this with the ambassador," Mr. Vasile told Mr. Samir, shaking his head.

Later, in a meeting with other Romanian workers in the central Israel town Modiin, Mr. Vasile announced he would appoint an embassy official to help the workers with their problems.

Some 60,000 Romanian workers — the largest group of foreign workers in the country — are officially employed in Israel, mainly in construction.

They earn up to \$1,200 a month — 10 times higher than the average salary in Romania.

"We are very excited that the prime minister came to see how we live with his own eyes," said construction worker Daniel Kari, 43, after Mr. Vasile visited the room he shares with another worker in the hostel.



VOICES FROM WITHIN: Famed Arab poet Samih Al Qassem talks at a press conference yesterday, hours before his recital, the highlight of the Jerash Festival's poetry sessions, along with Mo'een and Nuhad Shamshour, the directors of the Nazareth-based Mawal Folklore Troupe who will be performing Al Qassem's 'Operate Al Beit' (The home opera) which tackles the issue of Jerusalem and the dispossessed Arab Jerusalemites who 'will one day come back home.' Al Qassem and the Mawal troupe complained that some reporters have suggested that Mawal's performance is a form of normalisation between the Jerash Festival and Israel, since they are Arab-Israelis (a term the troupe rejects and wants replaced by the term Arab citizens in Israel), saying that Arabs living in Israel should be embraced by the Arab World instead of being rejected as Israeli nationals. Operate Al Beit will be performed at Jerash's Northern Theatre next Thursday and Friday (Photo by Youssef Alfian)

Kuwait intercepts ships allegedly violating U.N. embargo on Iraq

KUWAIT (AP) — The Kuwaiti coast guard has intercepted two wooden boats that apparently were violating the U.N. trade embargo against Iraq, Kuwait's Interior Ministry said Tuesday.

The boats were seized in Kuwait's territorial waters on Sunday, the ministry's spokesman, Col. Bader Saleh, told The Associated Press.

He said the boats, registered in the United Arab Emirates and manned by 13 Asian sailors, were carrying dates and fertilizer from Iraq. Saleh gave no other details.

Scores of ships have been intercepted in the Gulf since the United Nations imposed economic sanctions on Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The sanctions ban air travel to and from the country and international trade of all commodities, including oil.

The U.N. Security Council has said the sanctions will not be lifted until U.N. inspectors certify that Iraq has complied with resolutions calling for the elimination of its weapons of mass destruction.

Iraq says it has destroyed its weaponry and has demanded that the sanctions be lifted. Baghdad has called on Arab countries to ignore the trade ban and has actively sought to circumvent it with shipments of goods overland to neighboring countries and via the Gulf.

Iran says victims of Iraqi chemical attacks file case

TEHRAN (R) — Iranians wounded by Iraqi chemical weapons in their 1980-88 war have lodged a complaint against the weapons' users and suppliers, including several Western governments, an Iranian military official said in remarks published on Tuesday.

"A group of victims have filed complaints to international bodies calling for condemnation of perpetrators of these crimes and their accomplices, as well as demanding compensation for their sufferings," said Mohammad Baqer Nik'khan.

He accused the United States, Britain, Germany, France, the former Soviet Union and Spain of providing Iraq with chemical weapons.

Mr. Nik'khan, an official at the Foundation for Safeguarding the Values of the Sacred Defence, did not name the international bodies to which the victims had applied.

In remarks published in the daily Tehran Times, he said some 10,000 Iranians were killed and 50,000 wounded by Iraqi chemical weapons during the war. The foundation looks after veterans of the conflict, which is known in Iran as the sacred defence.

"The indifferent reaction of the international community towards Iraq's chemical attacks encourage this country to continue its heinous crimes against humanity," Mr. Nik'khan said.

"Our judiciary has failed to either pursue the case itself or to take the matter to an international forum for proper proceedings," In April 1997, a number of the victims staged a protest in front of the German embassy in Tehran against firms that supplied chemical weapons to Iraq.

South Lebanon truce committee meets on Israeli complaint

NAQOURA (AFP) — The international committee monitoring a truce in southern Lebanon met Tuesday in discussion an Israeli complaint over a bombing that killed an Israeli-armed militiaman and his sister, officials said.

The panel convened at 11:00 a.m. (0800 GMT) at the United Nations headquarters in the southern port city of Naqoura, near the Israeli border, the officials said.

Israel filed the protest after a South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiaman and his 12-year-old sister were killed by a roadside bomb Friday near Jerzinc just outside the Israeli-occupied border strip in southern Lebanon.

The militiaman, identified as Nabil Iskandar, 18, died instantly while his sister Salam was rushed to a hospital in northern Israel but died later from her injuries.

No group claimed responsibility for the blast.

The committee, which groups representatives from France, Israel, Lebanon, Syria and the United States, was formed in April 1996 to oversee a truce between Israeli and Shiite Muslim Hizbollah members.

The Iranian-backed Hizbollah spearheads the members' resistance to Israel's 20-year occupation of southern Lebanon.

The truce agreement bans fighters from both sides from targeting civilians or launching attacks from civilian areas.

A total of 13 Lebanese civilians have been killed and 65 wounded in the violence in southern Lebanon so far this year, according to an AFP count.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 4773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
15:00 Mr. Bogus Show
15:30 Children's Programme
— Halfway to Cross the Galaxy and Turn Left
16:00 The Album Show
17:00 Doc — Ushuaia
18:15 Acapulco Bay
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 Science Magazine — E-M6
19:30 News headlines
19:35 Comedy — Buddies
20:00 Doc — Envoy Special Magazine
20:30 Faces and Places
21:10 Kung Fu
22:00 News in English
22:30 Hiroshima (pt. 1)
00:10 End of T.N.

PRAYER TIMES
04:21 Fajr
05:48 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:42 Dhuhr
16:22 Asr
19:35 Maghreb
21:05 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweifeh, Tel. 5920740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
4632785
St. Joseph Church Tel.
4624590
Terra Sancta Church Tel.
4622366

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Anglican Church Tel. 4624833/4623481
St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751
Amman International Church Tel. 805897
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 5688404
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 4654932
St. John the Baptist at De la Salle College Tel. 5661757
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 4637440
Greek Orthodox Church Tel. 4646138
Church of Presentation, Sweifeh Tel. 5920146
The United Catholic Church Tel. 4624757
The English-Language Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190
Evangelical Free Church Tel. 892679
The Baptist Church Tel. 4628052
The Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
The Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology
Relative hot weather conditions will prevail today with winds northwesterly moderate.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS NIGHT DUTY
Dr. Walid Al Masri 5675485
Dr. Ahmad Masra 5354413
Dr. Youssef Rashid 4875792
Dr. Jum'a Abu Dhiab 4758548
Firas pharmacy 5661912
Al Asma pharmacy 4637055
Al Salam pharmacy 4636730

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 4637111
Civil Defence Department 5661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 4630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 4621111/4637777
Fire Brigade 4617101
Blood Bank 4775121
Highway Police 5343402
Traffic Police 4896390
Public Security Dept. 4630321
Hotel Complaints 5605800
Price Complaints 5661176
Waste & Sewage Complaints 487467
Amman Municipality Complaints 4771111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 4623101
Abdali Tel. Repairs 5661101
Jordan Television 4773111
Radio Jordan 4774111
Water Authority 5680100

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 5921199
The Islamic Arab 56661307
Hussein Medical Centre Tel. 5698256
Luznia 4630195
Khalid Maternity 4644281/6
Akileh Maternity 4642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 4642362
Malhas, J. Amman 4636140
Palestine Shmeisam 5607071
Shmeisam Hospital 5669131
University Hospital 5353444
Al-Muasher Hospital 5672279
Al-Ahli, Abdali 5641646
Iraqi, Al-Muasher 4771013
Al-Bashir 4775111/26
Army, Marka 4891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 56024050
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 5674155
Zarqa National Hospital 09983323
Zarqa 09900560
Ibn Sina Hospital 09986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital 09990999
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ)
Flights
07:30 Damascus (RJ)
09:30 Jeddah (RJ)
09:55 Larnaca (RJ)
09:55 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
12:55 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:30 Madrid (RJ)
18:05 Istanbul (RJ)
18:05 Paris (RJ)
18:40 Brussels, Geneva (RJ)
19:10 London, Vienna (RJ)

DEPARTURES
Royal Wings (RW)
10:20 Amman (QAIA)
11:00 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
18:00 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
18:00 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
19:20 Tel Aviv (QAIA) (RW)
23:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
06:50 Larnaca (RJ)
09:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:15 Rome (RJ)
12:45 Istanbul (RJ)

Other Flights
06:35 Larnaca (CY)
07:30 Paris (AF)
09:20 London (BA)
11:30 Ta'iz, Sanaa (Y)
12:45 Kuwait (KU)
14:00 Jeddah (SV)
14:15 Cairo (MS)
15:00 Bahrain, Muscat (GF)
15:10 Tunis (TU)
15:50 Vienna (OS)
17:20 Sharjah (AH)
17:20 Dubai (EK)
20:30 Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)
23:55 Beirut (ME)
00:20 Amman (TK)
00:40 Damascus, Amsterdam (KL)
03:45 Beirut, Athens (OA)

Home

Criticism of gov as press calls for

By Amy Henderson
Special to the Jordan Times

Public criticism of the government reached a new peak yesterday in Jordan as it unleashed an attack on the government of the day. The criticism was directed at the management of the country's economic crisis and the government's handling of the political situation.

The criticism was expressed in a series of articles in the Jordanian press, which called for a change in the government. The articles pointed out the government's failure to address the economic crisis and its failure to implement reforms.

The criticism was also expressed in a series of public demonstrations and rallies. The demonstrators called for the resignation of the government and for the implementation of democratic reforms.

The government has responded to the criticism by denying the allegations and by stating that it is committed to addressing the economic crisis and to implementing reforms.

Investigation

21-year-old

authorities have been investigating the case of a 21-year-old man who was found dead in a car. The man was identified as a member of a militant group. The investigation is ongoing.

What's

JE

performance by Azfar Group of the Jordanian National Conference. The performance was held in Amman and was attended by a large number of people.

Opposition

'The gove

The recent postponement of the National Conference has caused a series of boycotts launched by various groups within the opposition. The opposition groups are demanding the government to hold the conference as scheduled.

The government has responded to the opposition's demands by stating that the conference will be held as soon as possible. The government also stated that it is committed to addressing the economic crisis and to implementing reforms.

Criticism of government reaches pitch as press calls for legal investigations

By Amy Henderson
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Public criticism of the government reached a crescendo yesterday in Jordan's press as it unleashed an all-out attack on the government of Abdul Salam Majali for mismanagement of the ongoing water crisis and urged citizens to initiate a legal investigation into possible official negligence.

"It is the right of any citizen to go to the prosecutor general and ask for an investigation of [these officials] and to approach the Parliament to discuss the possibility of trying [these officials] before the Higher Court of Justice on charges of harming our mental and physical well being and for circumventing and diluting the truth," wrote Jamil Nimri, a columnist for Al Arab Al Yawm.

Both the weekly and the daily press have been busy pressing the government for an explanation of cloudy, smelly and unpleasant tasting water flowing through Amman's taps since mid-July, but have been met with a series of conflicting official statements from the ministers of health and water and irrigation about the water's safety and the source of the problem.

Reports by the U.S.-based Stanley Consultants — hired by the government to investigate the crisis — and by the Lower House Committee on Agriculture and Water revealing that the water carries

alarming levels of fecal material compounded anger and frustration, pushing both patience and confidence in the government to its limits.

"It is high time that official circles say all that they know about our water, even if what must be said is not positive," wrote Sultan Hamab, in an article entitled "We need a farwa," published in the government-owned Al Ra'i.

"There is nothing more the government can do to conceal this problem. We have seen many reports, the latest of which is the Stanley report. We will not speculate on its credibility, but we do hope that a Jordanian report will be issued that will respect the intelligence and the lives of the public."

Other writers said that the scandal is symbolic of official corruption allowed to flourish for years.

"We should refer anyone who is responsible for this to court and then to prison to set an example for all who will follow," wrote Jihad Al Momani to Al Dustour. "Had we sent those to trial [in the late 80s] who were found transporting vegetable oil in sewage tanks or those whom the previous minister, scandalised by showing the poor quality of our meat, the outdated medicine that we bought and the rotten fish, if even one trial had happened, this [crisis] would not happen."

"The water issue is part of general negligence and part of the core of corruption and official

laxity regarding what we eat and drink," he said.

The press, humbled since the government's initiative against it which began last year, has recently grown increasingly bold in spite of a formidable atmosphere created by the executive. The introduction of the government's draft press and publications law, the recent announcement of skewed economic growth figures, the waiving of a sell off of 40 per cent of the Jordan Telecommunications Company to a strategic partner, and most recently, the damning water reports, have all provoked the press back into action.

Even the media's voice of reason, Al Dustour Chief Editor Nabil Sherif, criticised the government-owned airing of a report on Australia's water crisis.

"As if officials want to say 'why are our citizens being so unjustifiably petty' and to encourage us to look on the bright side, as if to say 'we aren't the only ones with a water problem.'"

Professional and women's associations yesterday also raised their criticism on the government, calling for legal inquiries into government violations of "health, standards and specifications" and asked the Parliament to hold the government accountable for its actions.

Consumer society to file suit against ministers of health and water

Mohammad Ben Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The head of the Jordanian Consumer Protection Society (JCPS) said on Tuesday the organisation plans to file a law suit against two government ministers in connection with the three-week-old water pollution problem that has created a nationwide scare.

Abdul Fatah Kilani said that Minister of Water and Irrigation Munther Haddadin and Minister of Health and medical care Ashraf Kurdi had violated article 286 of Water Authority regulations stipulating that the "odour and taste of potable water should be acceptable to

the majority" of citizens.

Mr. Kilani said he sent the file to the Bar Association to have legal experts study it before sending it to court.

But some independent lawyers questioned whether the society had the "authority" to do so and insisted that Amman residents themselves should sue the government individually.

"Dr. Haddadin and Dr. Kurdi publicly admitted that domestic water is murky and has a strange taste and smell," he said. "Despite that, water pumping continued and the water ministry is responsible for pumping murky water to people," said Dr. Kilani.

After a spate of conflicting

statements, the government said it detected the cause of the problem and blamed "human and operational errors" at the Zai water treatment plant, the main source of domestic water supplies to Amman. The government also said it would punish those found responsible.

Citizens, especially those living in western areas of Amman, began complaining of foul-smelling water supplies with a strange taste and colour on July 10.

Mr. Kilani referred to statements made by Dr. Haddadin earlier this month in which the latter admitted that water coming from the Zai plant "is colourful and has a different taste though it remains suitable

for human use."

Dr. Kurdi insisted that tap water "is not contaminated" but advised people to boil it before using it.

"We are trying to voice people's complaints," said Mr. Kilani. "The JCPS is not seeking to punish Dr. Haddadin or Dr. Kurdi, it only wants to point out those responsible for the problem and question them, because nobody, including the government, has immunity."

He accused the government of "violating the basic human right of personal security."

Jordan signed the International Convention on Human Rights in 1985, one of whose articles promotes the right of personal security.

However, independent lawyer Sa'di Abdeen said Amman residents, not the society, were authorised to file a suit against the government.

He and others expressed pessimism over prospects of punishing the government.

"It is most likely that the government will find a scape-goat who will happen to be a junior employee."

Hosni Abu Ghaida, head of the 14-member executive council of the influential Professional Associations, said the associations had formed a committee to follow up on the water problem. He said they were also considering legal action against the government.

CPJ attacks press draft

By Amy Henderson
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Lower House National Guidance Committee's (NGC) revisions to the government's draft press and publications law have failed to impress an international press freedoms organisation that yesterday attacked several articles of the revised draft now being debated in the plenary.

In a letter to members of Parliament, the Committee to Protect Journalists wrote that, "in our opinion, the draft law constitutes a grave threat to press freedom in Jordan, despite the NGC's laudable amendment of several highly restrictive provisions of the original bill submitted by the Cabinet last month."

The New York-based committee charged in its letter that the amended draft would still grant authorities "sweeping powers to censor, fine and suspend newspapers found to violation of a

variety of vaguely-worded prohibitions."

Among their complaints were Article 36, a catalogue of vaguely-defined prohibitions that impose a direct ban on any news or information "realised to armed or security forces, infringements on the independence of the judiciary, defames the heads of Arab, Islamic or friendly state, contains false rumours, disseminates information on deviation or moral corruption or which instigates strikes, sit-ins, or public gatherings in violation of the law."

The government's original draft also included a clause that forbids news that "resulted in the disruption of ties between Jordan and other countries."

The inclusion of the language followed several months of government accusations implying that the press had been single-handedly instrumental in causing a rift in ties with the Palestinian National Authority and some

Gulf states. Legislators later cancelled that particular language during their second reading of the bill.

The committee's letter also fired that, financial penalties, although significantly reduced to a maximum fine of JD10,000 — the government sought fines ranging from JD500 to JD50,000 — coupled with the power invested in the courts to close newspapers for reasons of "public interest or national security" in Article 49 constituted an "ambiguous prescription that is subject to broad interpretation."

"Collectively, these powers to sanction the press will have a chilling effect on journalists and will lead to an inevitable increase in self-censorship and possible closure of publications," the committee said.

The committee also said that much toned down language of Article 38 — which delineates "legal" coverage of court proceedings — appears to "auto-

rise blanket censorship on court proceedings and criminal investigations."

The original draft forbids the publication of any information related to an ongoing investigation, court case, or crime committed in the Kingdom unless permission is obtained from the General Prosecutor. The original language also prohibited the publication of minutes of court proceedings. The NGC scrapped the article and imported a clause from Egyptian law that publications may not report on any case under investigation by the authorities or the courts that may influence the investigation, the court proceedings or the status of the people involved.

The CPJ charged that the State Security prosecutor used "similar language" in banning the coverage of the investigation and trial of leading opposition figure Leith Shbeilat who stood trial for allegedly inciting a pro-Iraq demonstration in Ma'an in late

February, and again in the April killing of Amman lawyer Hanna Nadeeh, his son Suhail and psychiatrist Aswadi Sa'd.

The several articles in the draft also give wide latitude to authorities to censor or ban foreign publications, as well as stop the distribution of locally-printed books and magazines, all of which must be submitted to the Ministry of Information's Press and Publications Department for approval prior to their circulation.

The CPJ also said it was "deeply concerned" about the authority granted to the executive in licensing publications, articles concerning capital requirements that have already been subjected to substantial reduction by the NGC, and an article requiring that any journalist be a member of the Jordan Press Association before "legally" practising the profession.

PSD investigates hanging death of 21-year-old Jerash man

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Police are investigating the death of a 21-year-old man in Jerash, who on Tuesday morning was found hanging from a tree, according to official sources.

Munir Salem was found by his brothers at around 9:30 a.m. hanging in an olive grove in Burma town in Jerash, the source said.

The source told the Jordan Times Tuesday evening that Mr. Salem, unemployed, had been hanging for at least one day.

His family informed

authorities that their son had been missing since Monday morning, until his brothers found him the following morning in their grove, the source said.

The source said that police are questioning the family of the victim to determine if the cause of death was suicide or murder.

Meanwhile, a 75-year-old man was killed after reportedly drowning at a water reservoir in the Balqa governorate, according to Civil Defence Department (CDD) reports.

CDD frogmen pulled the victim, Talal Mohammad, from a private reservoir to the

Kafrein area at around 7:30 a.m.

An official source told the Jordan Times Tuesday evening that "preliminary investigation indicates that it was an accidental drowning."

"The family of the victim informed us that their father was a wanderer and had weak eye-sight, and that he probably fell to the reservoir," the source said.

The source added that the family of the victim informed the authorities that the victim had no enemies.

The victim's body was taken to South Shouneh Hospital for an autopsy, the source said.

Play explores relationship of good vs evil

By Randa Naffa
Special to the Jordan Times

JERASH — The cast of "The Good and the Evil," an insightful play written by famed writer Alfred Faraj, concluded three thought-provoking performances at the 17th Jerash Festival of Culture and Art.

The play is a revival of an old text found to the "One Thousand and One Nights Tales," based on the eternal question of good and evil.

Playwright Alfred Faraj presents this "eternal and universal theme found in all ages, cultures, and social environments," to reveal the political and social barriers now facing the Arab Nation.

Displaying a cultural Arab play, Mr. Faraj and director Ahmad Abdul Haleem succeeded in capturing the audience and lending them valuable thoughts.

The three-and-one-half hour play included a cast of three popular Egyptian actors was performed at the South Theatre, a historical Roman setting suitable for such a script.

Mohammad Mutwalli, who played Baser, the Good Man; Yahya Al Fakhrani starred as Bakir, the Evil Man; and

Sawsan Bader who acted as The Good Man's Wife all expressed happiness being at Jerash and described the play as a success because it "served the purpose of this intercultural festival."



The story is about two friends representing two different characters: good and evil. The good-hearted Baser is generous, compassionate and sympathetic while the wicked Bakir spurs no opportunity to spread his misdeeds to kind and loyal neighbour, Baser.

In Scene One set at Alexandria's central square Baser, a barber, falls prey to Bakir's scheme to escape to Rome after several encounters with Egyptian authorities, despite protestation of his wife Abeer.

On the way to the Roman city Bakir steals Baser's money, throws him into the sea and claims Abeer as his own wife. Despite her struggle and refusal Bakir steals Abeer's property and sells her as a

servant for only one dinar.

Destiny brings back Baser to the Roman city where he meets again with his friend Bakir, who lays yet another trap.

Bakir convinces the emperor to charge Baser and his wife a death penalty. Faithful intervention spared their lives, and they returned to their home, Alexandria, where, inevitably, the two meet again, and the evil requests forgiveness.

Baser, predictably, decides to forgive Bakir and Abeer decides to take both to the court.

Bakir testifies against Baser and claims he is the victim, accusing him of being an opportunist and selfish, "for he seeks God's heaven at my expense."

The judge finally ends the play ordering to "postpone the case until the day of resurrection."

Alfred Faraj meant to deliver the message of the eternal struggle of good and bad, virtue and evil.

The dramatist writer said he "tries to reveal the relationship between the two opposites, by raising the question of who is the good and who is the bad, how does good react to bad and what is the role of the 'bad' in a society" and the dependency of 'bad' on good people, without

whom they could not survive.

Mr. Faraj, and therefore his drama, is inspired by Andalusian thought, which he describes as "the core of human thought" which strives to put forward new subject matters that concern the Arab people.

Abeer's "role" as a wife, says Mr. Faraj, shows us how, in the name of religion and tradition, Arab women are abused, kept quiet and prevented from taking any decisions.

"In the prevailing atmosphere of patriarchal control and social barriers, the wife emerges submissive, weak, and unable to pressure, although she is aware of the dangers brought about by the evil," Mr. Faraj said.

Actress Sawsan Bader gives a startling performance, representing not only the oppressed Arab women, but also a burdened Arab nation, conscious of its weak status, but lacking the means to change.

These themes and more are presented with accompanying live orchestra and singing, representing an array of talent and experience. The Good and the Evil is a significant and expressive play that let the audience determine their own understanding of the characters and their own analysis of the events.

What's Going On

JERASH FESTIVAL

- Performance by Azifit Group of Tunisia at the North Theatre at 8:30 p.m.
- Jordanian play "Tagaseem Al Anbar" at Arimes Theatre at 8:30 p.m.
- Performance by Shenzhen Children's Art Ensemble of China at the Sound and Light Theatre at 8:30 p.m.
- Performances by the Jordan Armed Forces Orchestra (6:30 p.m.), Jordan's Hannounah Group (7:00 p.m.), Mladost Folklore Group of Slovakia (8:00 p.m.), the Iraqi National Group (9:00 p.m.), Sakumoh Group of Zimbabwe (10:00 p.m.), and U.K. Five-Star Circus (11:00 p.m.) at the Forum.

FILM

- "The Great Outdoors" at the American Center, Abdoun, on Thursday Aug. 7 at 5:00 p.m.

LECTURE

- "Humeima" by Dr. John Oleson at the American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR), near the University of Jordan on Friday Aug. 7 at 7:00 p.m. (Tel. 534-6117).

Opposition in disarray after associations postpone National Conference

'The government has helped create a political vacuum that more radical figures could fill'

By Francesca Ciriad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The recent postponement of the much-touted National Conference coupled with a string of boycotts launched on controversial grounds is a symptom of a deepening crisis within the opposition, analysts have said.

Politicians said the main reason for most of the opposition's recent failures was their determination to gather a broad consensus among forces of far too different ideologies, backgrounds, and policies.

"It is only normal that an already-improbable coalition of Islamists, leftists and nationalists would find itself at odds when dealing with a vast host of economic, political, and social issues all at once," said one seasoned politician, who is also a former minister.

Analysts also said that, by tightening the screws on already strict legislation and by weakening political parties, the government has helped create a political vacuum that more radical figures and groups could easily fill, thus favouring party rifts and disputes.

"The government is to be blamed for a regression in democratisation, which is leaving the radicals ample manoeuvrability and allowing them to replace political

parties in addressing society," said Hani Hourani, director of Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre.

After failing to block Parliament's ratification of the 1994 peace treaty with Israel and the lifting of some subsidies which triggered the 1996 bread riots, opposition forces have experimented with many forms of alliances, some of which never saw the light of day.

More recently, the boycott of the 1997

NEWS ANALYSIS

parliamentary elections resulted not only in internal rifts in many opposition parties, but also in their confinement at the fringes of the political arena and their isolation from centres of power.

Due to internal differences, a proposal for a "shadow elections law" to challenge the government's one-person, one-vote system and expected to be ready before the summer added to a long list of projects that never materialised.

The 80,000-strong Union of Professional Associations announced on Monday that the National Conference of opposition parties and civil society institutions to charge of drafting a National Salvation Plan to counter government policies has

been postponed for eight months.

"We think that such an important conference must be well prepared and all issues should be thoroughly discussed in advance," said Hosni Abu Ghaida, president of Jordan's most influential union, the 35,000-strong Jordan Engineers Association.

One-hundred and fifty representatives of civic institutions launched the National Conference on June 13 and elected a 34-member executive committee headed by Islamic Action Front (IAF) Secretary General Abdul Latif Arabiyat.

The conference was initially expected to launch its National Salvation Plan at the end of July, an unofficial deadline that was later pushed to the end of September.

Opposition parties, professional associations, student unions, as well as a variety of other civil society institutions and independent personalities, were largely expected to agree on a common platform including halting normalisation with Israel, limiting privatisation and economic liberalisation, and strengthening ties with Syria and Iraq at the expense of the Kingdom's relation with the West.

But "why issue yet another declaration with plenty of empty slogans?" commented Jamil Nimri, a leftist political commentator.

"A coalition on even one single point would have many more chances to translate into real political action than a coalition that tries to tackle all domestic and international issues."

Voicing similar views, Mr. Abu Ghaida said: "Agreeing on the guidelines is not enough. To be successful, the Conference must work out details and implementation strategies. We need to cook it well, over a low fire."

Though Mr. Abu Ghaida vowed the associations' commitment to the Conference and their conviction that "the country needs such an initiative," some believe that the postponement decision could trigger a dispute between the syndicates and the opposition parties.

Dr. Arabiyat was quoted yesterday in an Arabic newspaper playing down speculations on a possible rift between parties and associations, saying: "The associations have been [part of the National Conference] since the beginning and nobody ever set a deadline [for the Conference]."

Privately, however, some party leaders expressed disappointment and even frustration at the postponement decision. One leftist leader said "an eight-month postponement equals an actual cancellation."

The country's 13 associations — dominated by Islamists for the majority, but also

including an active minority of leftist-led syndicates — have traditionally been a hotbed for the opposition, especially during the 1957-1989 ban on political parties.

"One might think that the associations are trying to reclaim their political role before the opposition parties," said one Western diplomat with one decade of experience in the region.

Indirectly confirming such a thesis, Mr. Abu Ghaida told the Jordan Times that the postponement decision "was a good opportunity to prove that the associations think differently and independently from the parties."

Monday's decision followed three boycotts issued or debated by the associations in the past few weeks.

A one-month boycott against Jordan's Arabic leading daily Al Ra'i, issued following the newspaper's publication of an advertisement for Israel's national carrier El Al, was lifted on Monday.

The Council of Presidents of the Professional Associations also considered boycotting Jordan's only independently-owned daily, Al Arab Al Yawm, widely considered a vocal critic of government policies, for reporting on a Jordanian-Israeli joint-venture.

In an 11th-hour decision, the associations also announced their decision not to

participate in a seminar scheduled for the end of July. The seminar was dedicated to professional associations' role in civil society as driving forces of democracy and had been organised by a local research institute in cooperation with a foreign counterpart.

Though union leaders declined to comment on this decision, sources confirmed that it was made because of the organisers' alleged complicity in "the Zionist conspiracy."

"The associations have recently lowered their targets and raised their voices," the seasoned politician said.

"It could be because they feel threatened."

While an increasing role of opposition parties still seems a distant challenge to the associations' longstanding supremacy in the opposition quarters, government plans to abolish the unions' compulsory membership that could strip the syndicates of a considerable share of their base.

Successful governments for the past few years have suggested abolishing compulsory membership in the associations in a bid to "depoliticise" them.

"That is a much more real threat [to the influence of the associations]," one analyst said.

Taleban reports taking province

KABUL (R) — Forces of Afghanistan's Taleban Islamic movement made further gains against the country's northern-based opposition Tuesday, capturing another province with little resistance, a Taleban spokesman said.

Spokesman Abdul Hai Mutman told Reuters by telephone from the southern city of Kandahar that all of Sar-i-Pul province had been captured by the Taleban militia late Tuesday morning.

"The enemy has left behind a large part of its arsenal and have set fire to some," he said. "They put up very little resistance and fled from the area after an hour's skirmishes." No opposition comment on the Taleban report was immediately available.

Earlier, a Pakistan-based Afghan news service said the Taleban captured the town of Sar-i-Pul, capital of the province of the same name, after heavy fighting. The Afghan Islamic Press (AIP), quoting sources in Afghanistan, said the Taleban also arrested about 100 opposition fighters.

Sar-i-Pul lies to the southwest of Mazar-i-Sharif, an opposition stronghold and the last main city outside Taleban control, and south of Jozjan province, whose capital Shibergah was

seized by the Taleban Sunday.

From Sar-i-Pul, the Taleban could also threaten the hasty of the opposition Shiite Muslim Hezb-i-Wahdat faction in the central province of Bamian.

Taleban forces have made rapid advances in the north since the weekend. After taking control of Jozjan, the home province of opposition's key ethnic Uzbek commander General Abdul-Rashid Dostum, they captured four districts of Balkh province to arrive only 15 km west of the provincial capital Mazar-i-Sharif.

Taleban spokesmen say some local opposition commanders have joined the largely ethnic Pashtun Taleban forces.

All 11 foreign aid workers in Mazar-i-Sharif were evacuated Tuesday by International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) plane, ICRC sources said.

The plane was due to have flown to Mazar-i-Sharif Monday, but the flight was cancelled for security reasons.

The Taleban say their forces are also advancing on Mazar-i-Sharif from the east after taking parts of Hairatan river port town-

ship on the border with Uzbekistan, but there was no independent confirmation of the Taleban claims of successes in Hairatan.

The opposition say they will resist any attempts by the Taleban to capture Mazar-i-Sharif.

When the Taleban briefly captured Mazar-i-Sharif in May last year, a revolt led by ethnic Hazara fighters inflicted a major defeat on the militia. Hundreds of Taleban fighters were killed and thousands captured in three days of street fighting.

The United Nations is investigating mass graves in northern Afghanistan which allegedly contain the bodies of as many as 2,000 Taleban fighters killed after being captured in the fighting in May.

Last year the Taleban failed twice to stretch its control over the northern provinces where factions of different ethnic groups have formed a loose alliance.

The opposition controls some 10 per cent of the country in the mountainous northeast and central Afghanistan. The Taleban, which controls the rest of Afghanistan, has vowed to enforce strict Islamic Sharia law nationwide.

Since the fall of the Communist government in 1992, Afghanistan has been torn apart by a competition for power between heavily-armed indigenous factions — many of which were once allied in the fight against the Soviet invaders.



Residents salvage their belongings from the site of a building collapse in Bombay. The seven storey building, which housed residential flats, a shopping area and a hotel collapsed late Aug. 3. Sixteen bodies have been recovered so far but many people are still believed to be trapped in the rubble (Reuters photo)

India building collapse kills at least 22

BOMBAY (R) — Bombay rescue workers used bulldozers and blowtorches Tuesday to clear loose rubble and try to reach survivors of a building collapse that killed at least 22 people, officials said.

Twenty people were injured and many were missing under the debris of tangled concrete and steel, all that remained of the seven-storey apartment block that tumbled to the ground Monday night.

"We are just waiting to see if there are any miracle survivors," Chief Fire Officer V.V. Rao said.

"But the chances are remote." The Govind Tower building, in the middle-class suburb of Bandra, had shops on the ground floor and a cheap hotel taking up the top three floors.

The rest of the building was divided into 18 flats, many of whose occupants

were believed to be inside when it collapsed.

Officials said most of the people were trapped in bathrooms or on staircases as they either took shelter or fled when the building began to shudder about three minutes before it came down.

Local residents believe 70 people were in the building at the time, but Mr. Rao said the estimates were exaggerated.

"We dug a hole under the building after we heard voices some five hours after the collapse," Mr. Rao said. "We found a cave-like formation where people were huddled together. Eight people were rescued."

Bombay Mayor Nandkumar Satam said local residents had told him there were wide cracks in the building.

"Investigations are in progress," he said. "As of

now we do not know for sure the exact cause of the collapse." Mr. Rao said the estimates of the number trapped varied because they had not received a confirmed guest and employee list from the hotel.

Police said eight members of the family of a spice shop owner were missing. Pradeep Dabholkar, the owner, was away when the building tumbled down, police said.

Witnesses found a sobbing teacupped resident searching for his parents at a local hospital. About 150 firemen, 100 municipal workers and 160 police were involved in the rescue effort, officials said.

Scores of trucks scurried back and forth carrying the debris away as six bulldozers shovelled the tangled concrete and steel boulders from the asphalt road, witnesses said.

Indian defence minister in Kashmir as border clashes go on

SRINAGAR, India (AFP) — Indian Defence Minister George Fernandes visited Kashmir Tuesday as Indian and Pakistani troops shelled each other along their disputed border for the sixth successive day, officials said.

Mr. Fernandes arrived in the northern Kashmir town of Kupwara and inspected a local Indian army base before proceeding to the town of Uri, military officials here said.

He is to visit the border zones of the divided territory. Indian officials said the latest shelling, following heavy exchanges during the past week, had caused two deaths. More than 90 people died in earlier fighting.

A Muslim man and a woman died and four others were injured in a village near Uri, while nine members of a Muslim family were injured when a Pakistani shell destroyed a thatched hut elsewhere.

Tuesday's fighting was reported from the border areas of Uri, Kupwara and Gurez, between 100 to 150 kilometres from this summer capital of Kashmir.

India's Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee meanwhile rejected Pakistani demands for talks centred solely on Kashmir, saying other bilateral issues must also be addressed.

Mr. Vajpayee favoured freezing dialogue on contentious issues such as the Himalayan

state.

"There are many other issues which have to be addressed," he said. "We are neighbours and we have to live together. Why should Kashmir alone be the sole agenda?"

"But in spite of the Pakistani attitude, India will continue its efforts, as improvement of relations with Pakistan is very important."

New Delhi and Islamabad have blamed each other for the border shelling, which started last week, coinciding with abortive talks in Sri Lanka between Prime Ministers Vajpayee and Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan.

There have been contradictory accounts of the intensity of the artillery duel, with India accusing Pakistan of exaggerating the issue to try and exacerbate international worries over the 50-year Kashmir dispute. The Himalayan territory, claimed by both, is the main source of bitterness between the South Asian archrivals and has sparked two of their three wars since 1947.

A military official said Tuesday's firing was spread over 400 kilometres of the 1,300-kilometre Line of Control, a de-facto border dividing Indian and Pakistani troops.

Army officials here said shells in Uri were falling on hills surrounding an Indian brigade headquarters. Monday Pakistan claimed to have hit a

military headquarters but India denied it.

The confrontations, which have forced thousands of villagers to flee their homes, have caused mounting international concern, particularly in the wake of India and Pakistan's rival nuclear tests in May.

Monday, Mr. Sharif called for international mediation to resolve the Kashmir crisis. India countered by claiming the exchanges were petering out.

The United States and Britain have expressed concern. Washington has offered to mediate in talks between India and Pakistan if asked.

The British government Monday called for immediate bilateral negotiations. Foreign Office Minister Derek Fatchett said: "It is essential that India and Pakistan resolve their differences through dialogue."

White House spokesman PJ Crowley, meanwhile, said Monday: "The situation in Kashmir is one of those underlying issues that is central to the tensions that exist in South Asia."

Many commentators fear Kashmir has become a potential nuclear flashpoint.

Islamabad maintains there can be no improvement in ties until the issue is solved through a U.N.-sponsored referendum in the Muslim majority state. New Delhi categorically rules out outside mediation.

Rangers hunt poisoner of NYC pigeons

NEW YORK (AP) — A serial killer has been preying on New York City's pigeons, dosing bird food with pesticide so lethal that some victims die before they're even finished swallowing.

Few New Yorkers might feel sympathy for the city's millions of pigeons, derisively called "rats on wings," authorities said Monday the poisonings can affect larger birds and even humans.

The culprit is someone with a

"very premeditated, conscious and sick desire to take out their ill feelings on the city's wildlife," said Alex Brash, chief of the Urban Park Rangers, the law-enforcement arm of the city Parks Department.

Bird food or bread crumbs laced with a highly toxic pesticide called "carbofuran" have been left around Manhattan, investigators said. More than 60 dead birds, mostly pigeons and sparrows, have been found in bunches in the last month on the

Upper East Side and Times Square.

A red-tailed hawk and a peregrine falcon, an endangered species, that presumably fed on pigeon carcasses were also found dead of carbofuran poisoning, said Parks Department Commissioner Henry Stern.

While it is not illegal for exterminators to kill pigeons using milder pesticides, Mr. Brash said, carbofuran — intended for use on farms — is banned within city limits.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Los Angeles has first English-only school day

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Schools across California were thrown in to confusion Monday as schoolchildren returning from summer holidays faced their first day of English-only classrooms. A new law — Proposition 227 — which Californian voters overwhelmingly passed in June means students can no longer take classes in their native language, which is most often Spanish. Los Angeles schools spokesman Pat Spencer said that there had been "no reports of any major problems" during the first day in schools across the nation's most ethnically diverse educational system. But he also pointed out that nearly 10,000 of the 19,700 students who started classes in 50 Los Angeles elementary schools Monday have a limited knowledge of English, and so are affected by the new law. At Gridley Street Elementary in San Fernando, teacher Efrén Flores told local television station KCAL that he "had ... children who break down into tears just before lunch because they're frustrated." "They don't understand," he said. The law does allow for some flexibility however, as struggling students can choose from one of four options within the law. The first two allow parents to place their children in English-only classes, or, if they meet certain criteria, apply for a permit allowing them to continue bilingual instruction. Option three forces the teacher to speak only English with students while they can reply, and talk to each other in their native languages. Option four suggests mostly English classes with other languages being used as a last resort. It is not just students who are faced with bewilderment. Their parents, many of whom speak on English, have only 30 days to get to grips with the options and choose the best one for their child. The state's nearly 1,000 school districts will receive a working group report on how best to implement the law before they open their doors to 300,000 students over the coming weeks.

Officer arrested after Corsica police guns stolen

AJACCIO, Corsica (AFP) — A policeman was arrested Tuesday following the theft of the weekend of 23 police handguns from city hall police armoury in this capital of the French Mediterranean island. The municipal policeman was being interrogated by detectives who questioned all members of the municipal police force Monday after the 23 guns, mostly 357 magnums and 7.65 calibre pistols, disappeared. Also Monday, Prefect of Corsica Bernard Bonnet cancelled the gun licences of the entire municipal police force. The thieves, who knew their way about, removed the guns without having to break into city hall, but broke down the door of an office that contained the keys to the armoury, police said. Mr. Bonnet replaced former Prefect Claude Erignac who was gunned down on Feb. 6 last. Erignac was killed with a Beretta pistol stolen by five masked men in a raid on a police station at Pietrosella, a village near here. Corsica has been plagued by violent separatist groups for the past several decades, demanding independence for the island and an end to tourist development financed from mainland France and Italy.

Romance classes taught to cut divorce rate

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Husbands will be encouraged to "romance their wives" as part of a Malaysian state's campaign to curb divorce and cure wanderlust, a news report said Tuesday. A string of talks and workshops on "techniques to love and romance" wives will be the highlight of a programme called "Romance Your Wife," which begins next month in the northwestern state of Kedah, the Star newspaper reported. Kedah Chief Minister Sansul Jundil will give the keynote speech for the programme, which is "intended to promote healthy lifestyles" and prevent husbands from straying, said the minister's spokesman, Aziz Desa. "We also hope the rate of divorce cases in Kedah can be reduced by introducing such a programme," Mr. Aziz said, adding that 1,729 divorce cases were filed in the state last year. Religious personalities, motivation specialists and couples considered models of matrimony are to teach the course, which is open to all married couples. Mr. Aziz said. "The participants will be exposed to different experiences from the experts to help the married couples improve their relationships." Mr. Aziz said.

Gun attack on N. Ireland police station

LURGAN, Northern Ireland (AFP) — An unknown gunman fired shots at a police station in Northern Ireland early Tuesday, police said. The gunman opened fire from a black car which was being driven slowly past the gates of the base in Lurgan, southwest of Belfast, as a police patrol was leaving, according to a spokesman for the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC). The gunman did not hit the patrol vehicle, but a security camera outside the main gates was damaged. Meanwhile police also said that a 48-year-old man was injured in the latest of a series of paramilitary-style punishment attacks. He was beaten around the head and body by a gang which burst into his home in Londonderry, the province's second city. Police said he suffered a head wound and bruising.

There's gold in yaks

BEIJING (AFP) — Chinese and U.S. scientists have signed an agreement to exploit a little-known commodity — the blood of China's 14 million yaks. Yak blood contains high proportions of a commercial substance known as SOD, or superoxide dismutase, which is used in pharmaceuticals, food, nutrition and cosmetics. Xinhua news agency said Tuesday. Chinese researchers found that yak blood contained large amounts of SOD while conducting gene research on the blood. The SOD content of yak blood is three times higher than that of other domestic animals, the agency said. Yaks living in the western Chinese provinces of Qinghai and Sichuan, and the Tibet Autonomous Region accounted for roughly 85 per cent of the world's total yak population, it said. The agreement was signed between the Qinghai authorities and KniXave Biotech Inc., a bio-tech firm in the United States. Advanced equipment for manufacturing SOD products would be introduced to the province, in an attempt to bring development to the poverty-stricken province, Xinhua said.

German police alerted to influx of Italian mafia

BONN (R) — German police say they have been alerted to increasing numbers of Italian mafiosi fleeing to Germany following coups scored by Italy's "turncoat" witness protection programme.

"The mafia is in a process of restructuring itself," Josef Geissdoerfer, chief organised crime investigator in the southern German state of Bavaria, told Reuters.

"Germany is attractive to them, for example as a place to launder money," he noted.

Mr. Geissdoerfer, confirming details in a front-page article in Die Welt newspaper Tuesday, said mafia witnesses interviewed in Germany and Italy had spoken of numerous mafia ringleaders heading north across the Alps in recent years.

He said that once in Germany, the criminals restarted activities including dealing in drugs, extortion rackets and the smuggling of illegal immigrants over the border.

Germany has a large Italian population, many of whom

came as so-called "guest-workers" to take part in post-World War II rebuilding and have since settled with their families.

A spokesman for the Federal Crime Agency in Wiesbaden said it believed mafia members were present in several German states, including Bavaria, its neighbour.

Baden-Wuerttemberg and the large central states of Hesse and North Rhine-Westphalia.

The spokesman said there was no estimate of the total number of suspected mafiosi currently in Germany.

Testimonies by mafia "penitents", or turncoats, have dealt the crime organisation a series of blows in recent years.

The turncoat scheme, which offers payments and reduced sentences to ex-mafiosi in return for insider information, led to the capture in 1993 of Salvatore Riina, the mafia's so-called "boss of bosses".

The scheme has however aroused criticism for rewarding mobsters rather than punishing them.

Mr. Geissdoerfer said there was evidence that mafia bosses in Germany were showing a willingness to cooperate with other international gangs already operating here.

"The Italians meet Russian gangsters to carve up business."

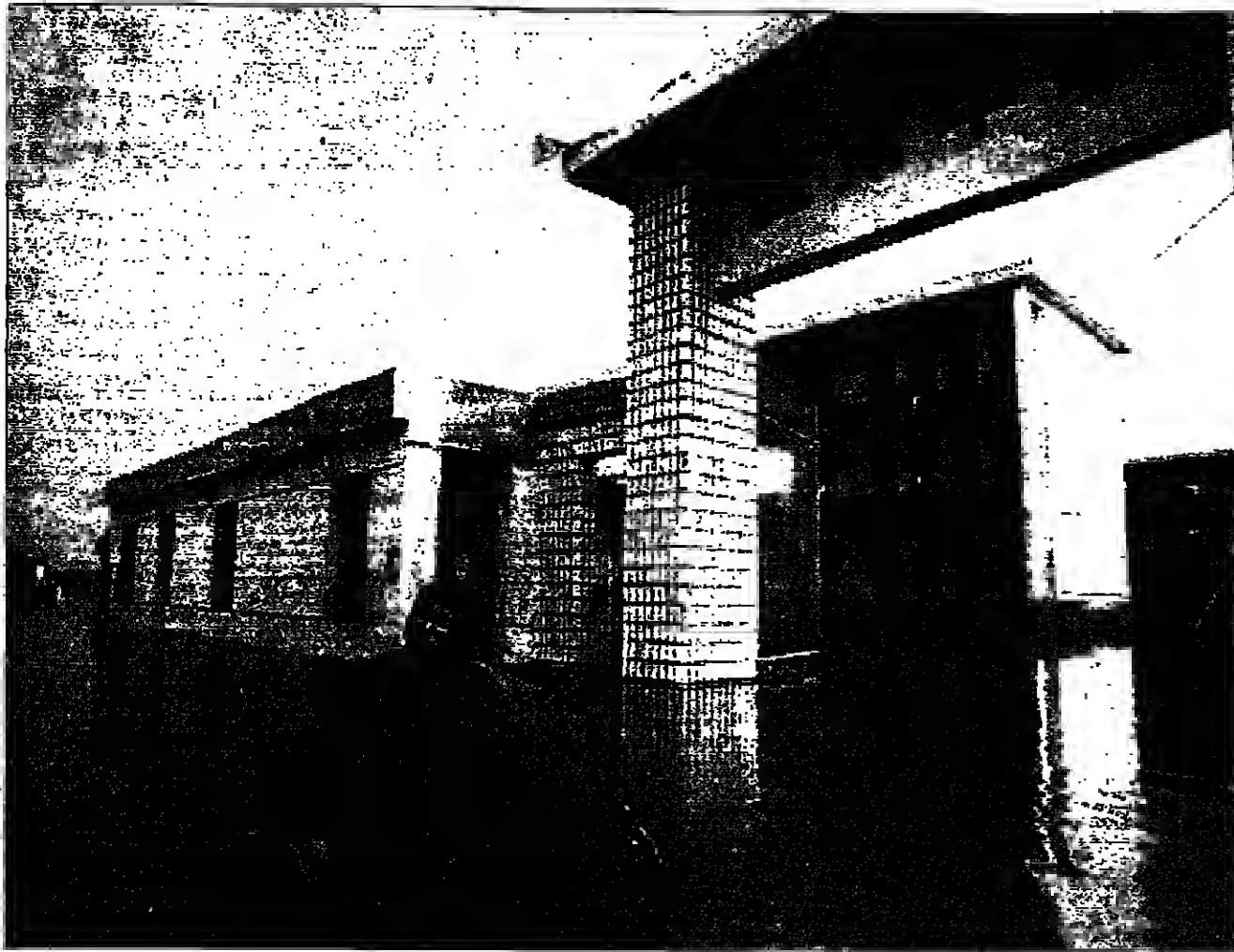
As drugs are an important part of their (the Italians') business, there are also contacts with Turkish heroin smugglers," he said.

He said his department had been cooperating with Italian police on mafia investigations for years and that a "very strong bond of trust" had developed.

The Bavarian state, controlled by the arch-conservative Christian Social Union (CSU) party, a coalition ally of Chancellor Helmut Kohl, had also put "a great deal of emphasis" on the fight against organised crime.

"We have 400 officers fighting organised crime in Bavaria. We are looking at every possibility," Mr. Geissdoerfer said.

كلمة من الجدل



A man floats in a wooden tub past a middle school in China's flood-stricken central Hunan province. The flooded Yangtze River, which runs through Hunan province could break its banks in some 3,200 places, 1,800 of which could be 'major' breaches. The breaches could threaten millions of farmers and city dwellers who live on the vast plains flanking the Yangtze. Flooding has killed thousands of people this year, driven millions from their homes, and has caused at least \$4.8 billion in damage (Reuters photo)

Japan's new foreign minister vows warm ties with Russia

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's new Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura told his Russian counterpart Yevgeny Primakov Tuesday he hoped to "accelerate" progress in warming relations, foreign ministry officials here said.

"Our basic message is continuity. The improvement in the Japan-Russian relations is irreversible and I intend to accelerate it," Mr. Komura was quoted as

telling Mr. Primakov over the phone.

Mr. Primakov, who congratulated Mr. Komura on his new post, said Russia hoped to maintain "close and friendly relations" with Japan, according to the officials.

He was quoted as saying that ties should be expanded "not only in the economic field but also in other broad areas."

Mr. Primakov expressed hope that Mr. Komura would visit

Russia in September, in preparation for Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi's planned visit later this year, the officials said.

Mr. Komura replaced Mr. Obuchi as foreign minister last week when the new premier formed a cabinet following the resignation of Ryutaro Hashimoto over the ruling party's humiliation in July 12 upper house polls.

Japan and Russia have not concluded a peace

treaty since World War II due to a territorial dispute over four southern Kurile Islands off Japan's northern island of Hokkaido.

But the ties have improved considerably following a series of meetings between Mr. Hashimoto and Russian President Boris Yeltsin. The two agreed at a Siberian summit last November to seek to conclude a peace treaty by 2000.

Bold new plan to professionalise South Africa's traditional healers

CAPE TOWN (AFP) — Traditional healers in South Africa will be allowed to issue medical certificates and claim their expenses from medical insurance under bold new government plans unveiled Tuesday.

A parliamentary report released here said that during the colonial and apartheid eras, "traditional healers were not only degraded and dehumanised, but were branded as witches."

It was time now to restore "the dignity of traditional medicine," said the report, drafted by the health committee of the National Assembly and the social services committee of the second chamber of parliament, the National Council of Provinces.

It estimated there are 350,000 traditional practitioners

in South Africa providing their services to 60 to 80 per cent of the population, and around 25,000 modern medical personnel.

The report recommended the establishment of statutory national traditional medical council, which would, among other functions, professionalise traditional medicine and facilitate cooperation with modern medicine.

It would also register all qualifying traditional healers, develop an ethical code for the profession, create a traditional medicine database and establish norms and standards for the profession.

The council would be an interim one with a life span of about three years, during which it would present proposals to the health minister to consider for the drafting of

final legislation.

The report identifies four categories of healer:

- inyangas (herbalists), who use herbal and other medicinal preparations for treating diseases;
- sangomas (diviners), who are trained to communicate with and utilise the powers of ancestors in diagnosing disease;
- abasabelis (birth attendants), elderly women who have been midwives for years and have great obstetric expertise; and
- ingcibi (traditional surgeons), usually trained men with experience in conducting traditional circumcisions.

The two parliamentary committees said recognition of medical certificates can only happen "once there is a prescribed procedure which

includes limitations on the number of days the patient can be excluded from work."

Once relevant laws are in place, their report added, "traditional healers' inclusion into the medical schemes environment can be further explored."

For there to be cooperation between modern and traditional medicine, it added, traditional medical practitioners must become professional.

"There is a definite need to regulate this profession and restrict it to those who legitimately belong to it," the report said. "This will go a long way in restoring the dignity of traditional medicine."

It recommended that the "intellectual property of traditional medicine should be protected from exploitation by their Western allopathic (modern) counterparts."

Orphaned toddler could have another shock in store

VISTA, Virginia (AP) — A few weeks ago, after much procrastination, Rebecca Chitum's grandparents finally told her that the people she's known as mommy and daddy for three years had been killed in a car crash.

Kevin Chitum and Tamara Whitney Rogers were in heaven, they said. Now, the grandparents may have to tell Rebecca something just as difficult: that there was a mix-up in the hospital where she was born and her biological mother is a total stranger who lives about 70 to 110 kilometres away.

"This is just awful," Rosa Chitum, Rebecca's paternal grandmother, said Monday.

"I don't have any idea how they're going to tell her," said Mary Wats, Rebecca's great aunt. "My sister's about going crazy."

Lawyers representing the families of Rebecca and the girl who went home from the hospital with her biological mother told Tuesday's Richmond Times-Dispatch that they have agreed to work on an arrangement that would keep each child in the family she knows while allowing the other

families to develop a relationship with the children.

Earlier, some of the family members raising Rebecca since the death of her parents had said they hoped to switch the children, though child experts had warned that could be traumatic for the young girls.

"All the parties have come together," said Cynthia A. Johnson, the attorney for Paula Johnson, who is raising the other girl, Callie Marie. The attorney, who is not related to her client, planned to accompany Ms. Johnson to a news conference Tuesday afternoon in Charlottesville.

The hospital, meanwhile, has not said conclusively that Ms. Johnson is Rebecca's mother, or that Ms. Rogers was Callie Marie's mother.

Mrs. Chitum's son, her would-be daughter-in-law, a daughter, granddaughter and two neighbourhood children were killed in the crash July 4. It happened one day after Ms. Johnson gave birth at the same time as Ms. Rogers in the University of Virginia Medical Centre, learned that the girl she has raised ever since is not the

one she delivered back in July 1995.

In a statement Monday, Ms. Johnson said she had met Ms. Rogers at the hospital.

"I remember Whitney from the hospital as a warm and enthusiastic person. My heart goes out to the families for their losses. Their pain is more than anyone should have to bear," she said.

While initial blood tests indicated Rebecca is not the baby Ms. Rogers delivered, Rebecca's grandparents have so far refused to allow a DNA analysis that would show for certain if they are Rebecca's blood relatives.

"They want to know, but they don't want to know," their attorney, Pete Robey, said. And either way, he said, the grandparents on both sides of Rebecca's family want to continue sharing custody of the child.

"The grandparents dearly love this child they have and they very much want her to stay right here in Buena Vista where she has been loved and raised with the only family she has ever known," Ms. Robey

said.

Ms. Johnson, whose court-ordered genetic testing produced the first hints of a switch, learned of Rebecca's whereabouts Sunday night and said she is looking forward to meeting with her biological daughter.

"Words cannot express the way I felt," she said. "This last month of not knowing has been agony for my family and for me."

Nadine Kaslow, an associate professor of child and family psychology at Atlanta's Emory University, said returning the children to their biological families could be harmful for both of them, especially Rebecca, who so recently lost the parents who had raised her.

"To then lose the extended family as well would be so emotionally overwhelming to her that she could be incredibly traumatised," she said.

Hospital officials have determined that the switch occurred and that it could not have been an accident, but said they don't know how it took place. Police are investigating the switch as a criminal act.

Hundreds killed in dyke burst near Yangtze River

BEIJING (AFP) — A burst dyke on China's flood-swollen Yangtze River unleashed a vicious torrent which swept hundreds of soldiers and civilians to their deaths, sources said Tuesday.

The report came as heavy rains in the river's upper reaches formed a new flood peak, menacing central provinces battered by weeks of record flooding, and a tropical storm loomed.

The dyke ruptured in the Jiayu district of Hubei province, some 70 kilometres from the city of Wuhan, the Hong Kong-based Information Centre of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China said.

Group spokesman Frank Lu quoted sources in Wuhan as saying the torrent from the rupture "surprised" 150 soldiers patrolling the dyke and residents of Paizhou and Hezhen counties, drowning hundreds of people.

This year's floods in the Yangtze River basin have been the worst since 1954, when 33,000 people died. More than 1,200 people have already been reported killed in flooding across

southern China this summer.

The Chinese authorities said Monday they had begun blowing up dykes to flood countryside areas in a bid to stop flooding in key cities.

"It can't yet be determined whether the dyke bursts resulted from the blowing up of the dykes," said Mr. Lu.

The deluge was large enough to drop the Yangtze's water levels at Wuhan by nearly 10 centimetres, he said.

An official newspaper in Guangzhou confirmed that a serious dyke burst occurred but provided no details of casualties.

The Yangcheng Evening News said a 700-metre wide hole erupted in the dyke — a secondary defence set back from the main levee on the Yangtze's bank.

The report said officials rescued 20,000 people from the torrent.

It said a leak was detected before the accident, and that 300 soldiers dispatched to the scene arrived too late.

Authorities had already evacuated 10,000 people from the area, but the two counties are home to more

than 560,000 people. The dyke burst flooded 100 square kilometres, the newspaper said.

An official with the flood-control bureau in Jiayu contacted by telephone said the dyke rupture occurred but that only one soldier died.

Weather reports pointed to no relief from the flooding — a new flood peak was building in the Yangtze's upper reaches and a tropical storm was approaching.

An official with Beijing's Central Meteorological Observatory told AFP that heavy rains since Sunday in southwestern Sichuan province had created a new flood crest that would hit central provinces in the coming days.

But he said the flood crest would not be as severe as the summer's third, which last week pushed waters along half the Yangtze to record levels and caused the worst flooding since 1954.

A strong tropical storm expected to dump even more rain was due to hit the southeastern coastline late Tuesday or early Wednesday, state radio reported.

The force 11 storm could

yet turn into a typhoon — the category reserved for storm systems at force 12 or higher, the observatory official said.

Waters along the Yangtze also continued to rise at key locations, officials told AFP.

At Wuban, the Yangtze rose two centimetres 29.07 metres above the riverbed.

Xinhua reported that dykes in the Yangtze basin are in danger of giving way in 3,200 locations, 1,800 of which would cause "major ruptures."

A flood-control official in Hubei's Xianning county also confirmed reports that dynamite had been used to divert Yangtze floodwaters.

Xinhua reported Monday that "11 small dykes were dynamited" in the county.

Nearly 10,000 homes and 10,000 hectares of farmland were submerged following the move, it said, adding that some 32,511 local residents had to be evacuated.

Similar measures — also aimed at protecting Wuhan's seven million residents — have been carried out in the area of Dongting Lake and along the Jingjiang, an tributary of the Yangtze, Xinhua said.

Serb forces claim control of Kosovo after offensive

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AFP) — Serb forces controlled nearly all of the central Kosovo region of Drenica Tuesday after operations against rebel strongholds in the province, Serb sources said here.

Serb forces were now holding the area between the key roads linking Pristina, the Kosovo capital, with Titova Mitrovica in the north and with Pec in the west, the sources said.

However the Pristina-Pec road and that linking Pristina with Prizren in the south remained closed Tuesday. Serb sources said the roads were not totally safe because of rebel Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) activity.

Fighting was continuing in an area around Srbica, the only place where the KLA was holding out, the Serb sources said.

Serb police units took control of Lausa, a KLA stronghold near Srbica, and nearby villages early Tuesday, the Serb Information Centre said

here.

"For months, Albanian extremists have been daily attacking the police and civilians in the Lausa area," the centre said. It said no civilians had been killed during the offensive to retake the area.

"The police from now on control all major parts of the region," the official Tanjug news agency said after the fall of Lausa and other KLA strongholds in Drenica.

Belgrade's security forces launched a major offensive over a week ago to recapture areas held by the KLA rebels in Drenica and in western Kosovo around Djakovica near the Albanian border.

Serb sources said there was no fighting in western Kosovo Tuesday.

The KLA is fighting for independence for Kosovo, a Serbian province where the population is 90 per cent ethnic Albanian. Serbia and the much-smaller Montenegro make up the rump Yugoslavia.

Drenica and the western

border region of Kosovo had become "scorched earth" zones, the Albanian-language newspaper Bujku said.

"The Serb forces are looting and setting fire to houses abandoned by civilians," said Bujku, which supports Kosovo Albanian leader Ibrahim Rugova.

Yugoslav military authorities said Monday several dozen "terrorists" were killed in fighting near the Albanian border Sunday and Monday, Tanjug reported. It said the latest clashes broke out after a group of separatists tried to cross into Kosovo from Albania.

The United Nations refugee agency, UNHCR, warned Tuesday of a refugee exodus in Kosovo, saying 70,000 people had fled their homes during the offensive of the past days.

It said the number of displaced people in Kosovo had reached 200,000, a tenth of the population.

"The refugees who flee the fighting said that houses are being set on fire and

pillaged by the Serb paramilitaries or Serb forces," a UNHCR spokesperson said. "Many areas are being de facto depopulated."

Meanwhile, EU officials in Vienna complained that Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic had failed to reply to a letter from the European Union presidency demanding he keep a pledge to call off his forces.

Austrian diplomat Albert Rohan, who headed an EU delegation that met with Mr. Milosevic last week, said the Serbian strongman "assured us that the military operation has come to a halt."

NATO contingency plans for possible military intervention in Kosovo were well advanced, sources close to the alliance said in Brussels.

In Washington, the State Department also warned of a humanitarian crisis in Kosovo and said NATO plans for possible military intervention had been approved.

Sydney's water crisis dries up

SYDNEY (R) — Sydney's water supply was pronounced clean Tuesday after a contamination crisis forced millions of residents to boil tap water for drinking, cooking and washing.

Tests performed on water from around Australia's largest city found no trace of the giardia and cryptosporidium parasites that can cause severe diarrhoea. New South Wales state government officials said.

"There is no need to boil your water in Sydney from now, the all-clear for all alert zones has been given, and in that context Sydney water is now safe and clean to drink," New South Wales Urban Affairs and Planning Minister Craig Knowles told reporters after briefing the state cabinet on the crisis.

Sydney Water, the city's water authority, later announced it would spend A\$35 million (\$21) upgrading water storage controls and improving daily monitor-

ing of water filtration outlets.

"It is as much as we possibly could do to ensure that we don't see cryptosporidium and giardia in drinking water in the future," Sydney Water chairman David Hill told reporters.

The Olympic city's 3.9 million residents were warned last Wednesday to boil tap water for one minute before drinking it.

The discovery of the parasites caused widespread panic.

Businesses and individuals threatened to sue water authorities for millions of dollars.

Sydney law firms reported fielding dozens of inquiries from small and medium-sized businesses such as hotels, restaurants and seafood suppliers.

Many shops around the city sold out of bottled water, schools and child-care facilities shut off water fountains and public swimming pools were drained.

State health authorities

said that they had recorded no increase in the number of illnesses related to the parasites, and would continue watching for reported cases of water-related illnesses for another two weeks.

Dr. Robyn Napier of the state branch of the Australian Medical Association, a doctors' lobby organisation, said it would be hard to link cases directly to the contamination crisis because the disease can take months before symptoms emerge.

"We might not see people for months," Dr. Napier told Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio. "They might get sick, but they're not that sick to go and see the doctor. They might put it off and put it off."

The state health department said there had been 1,048 cases of giardiasis reported so far in 1998, 400 in March after giardia was discovered in a number of swimming pools.

The parasites were first found in water in some

areas of Sydney's central business district on July 31 and were eventually traced back to a filtration plant in the city's west.

The crisis grew rapidly and authorities said last Wednesday all Sydney residents must boil tap water before using it for drinking, washing hands, cleaning teeth, gargling and washing their children's faces and toys.

The fallout is likely to last longer than the contamination crisis itself, with the public and politicians calling for the sacking of the board of Sydney Water for embarrassing the city two years before it hosts the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

"The public has no reason to trust this board again," state Liberal opposition leader Peter Collins told reporters.

Mr. Collins said last week the crisis would be understandable "in Dhaka (capital of Bangladesh) after the flood" but not in a city like Sydney.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

Chairman of the Board of Directors
Abdel Salam Tarawneh

Vice Chairman & Director General
Mohammad Amad

Executive Editor
Abdullah Hasanat

Responsible Editor
Elia Nasrallah

Editorial and Advertising offices
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman

Telephones: 5684311, 5699634, 5667171, 5603585

Facsimile: Editorial: 5696183, Advertising: 5693337

E-mail: jtimes@go.com.jo

Web Site: http://www.access2arabia.com/jordantimes/

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Washington Watch

Debate against sanctions grows in U.S.

THE U.S. Senate put the Freedom from Religious Persecution Act (FRPA) on indefinite hold last week. As a result of this action, the legislation, which only one month ago seemed almost certain to become law (it had overwhelmingly passed the Congress 375-41), will not be voted on in the Senate this year. If it had passed both Houses and been signed into law, the FRPA might have resulted in some form of sanctions being imposed against more than 70 countries that have been found by the U.S. State Department to restrict religious freedoms.

The decision to terminate action on the FRPA is due to a growing anti-sanctions movement that has been gaining ground in the United States.

This movement began in late June with President Clinton's remarks in a press interview. The president observed, "we seem to have gotten sanctions happy...we're in danger of looking like we want to sanction everybody who disagrees with us." Next came the introduction of anti-sanctions legislation sponsored by two of the Congresses' more respected foreign policy experts, Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN), and Congressman Lee Hamilton (D-IN). The Lugar-Hamilton bill proposes to severely limit the use of sanctions by introducing several restrictions on all such efforts. The bill would mandate a presidential waiver provision for all sanctions programmes; it would automatically limit the duration of future sanction efforts to two years; before sanctions could be introduced, before sanctions could be imposed, that the precise objectives of the sanctions be defined.

In arguing for his legislation, Senator Lugar noted that there is a sanctions "epidemic" that must be stopped. The United States, he noted, has used sanctions 115 times in the past 80 years — 61 of them have been imposed in the past five years alone. The Congress has passed four new sanctions bills already this year and is currently considering six more.

Commenting on the bill Congressman Hamilton noted

that the widespread use of sanctions by the United States was alienating many U.S. allies.

"Our allies," wrote Hamilton, "bristle at what they see as an overbearing — even domineering — style." This combined push by the president and these senior members of Congress has spawned several articles and editorials in major U.S. papers decrying "sanctions addiction" and calling for a "more reasonable, less hysterical" approach to foreign policy.

One analysis published in the Washington Post demonstrated that "more than one half of the world's population are currently subjected to U.S.-imposed sanctions. Of the 25 countries under the most stringent sanctions, noted in the article, five are Arab (Iraq, Libya, Syria, Sudan, and Somalia), three others are Muslim countries (Iran, Indonesia, and Pakistan), eight are sub-Saharan African and seven are Asian.

The authors of the article agreed with former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger who noted recently that "sanctions rarely work." In fact most recent commentaries on this subject have found only one clear-cut instance where sanctions have produced real change — South Africa. In fact, the analysts continue, when applied unilaterally, economic sanctions can backfire. Today U.S.-imposed sanctions have cost the U.S. economy \$20 billion in export losses and a loss of 200,000 jobs. It is for this reason that major U.S. businesses have become vocal opponents against sanctions.

Several other factors have combined to spur this growing anti-sanctions effort.

The White House has become increasingly frustrated with the difficulty it encounters each year in attempting to renew Most Favored Nation (MFN) status for China. The White House and businesses fear that the United States might end up excluding itself from major markets resulting from: the automatic U.S. sanctions (required by U.S. law) against India and Pakistan; the inflexible and controversial congressional legislation imposing penalties on our allies who trade with Iran and Cuba; and the

fear of international backlash if the FRPA were to pass. In general, there is a growing concern that a variety of ideological groups have been able to use the Congress to pursue their narrow agendas and to force the United States into an isolationist stance through the use of sanctions.

Now that the tide has begun to turn, it can be hoped that a more reasoned debate can take place on the use of sanctions. One must not, however, underestimate the difficulties ahead. Advocates of sanctions representing a diverse set of issues and causes, are often imbued with a moral self-righteousness and have won powerful congressional allies. Cuban-Americans, for example, will continue to press hard against Castro, and pro-Israel groups will continue to seek to punish Iraq, Iran, and Libya, while the fundamentalist right wing will continue to press hard against Sudan and China. All of these groups represent powerful constituencies that are organised into strong voter blocs in some key states. Their presence will, therefore, not be easily overcome.

What is important, though, is for the first time in recent years these narrow ideological groups have some vocal opposition in both political parties. In an unprecedented move, for example, more than 35 Democratic members of Congress wrote to the president urging reconsideration of the sanctions against Iraq.

The Republican Party, which has always been viewed as the party of big business, has become, in recent years, a captive of the Christian right wing. These ties led the party to support extreme anti-business sanctions bills. Now, with the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), outspoken against "sanctions addiction," the fight within the Republican Party has begun.

It is not clear what the outcome of this debate will be. The battles over sanctions will probably continue into the next session of Congress.

But what is certain is that just as the FRPA was buried last week, the efforts to impose new sanctions will no longer be automatic or easy.

Starr transforms U.S. presidency into a kind of purgatory

By Jeffrey Rosen

WASHINGTON — The presidency is often called the loneliest job in the world. But it has recently become a lot lonelier.

In the wake of Kenneth Starr's assaults on its prerogatives, the office of the U.S. president can no longer rely on the same privacy of internal deliberations that courts, Congress and special prosecutors take for granted.

Whether he brings down Bill Clinton or he doesn't, Mr. Starr has transformed the presidency into a kind of purgatory.

Thanks to Mr. Starr's recent victories, future presidents will not be able to say or do anything in confidence without fear of exposure. They will have to censor what they say to their most trusted aides, too. If future presidents feel the urge to unburden themselves to their closest friends, the urge will have to be resisted. And they can seek the advice of their official lawyers in the White House counsel's office only at their peril.

To whom, then, can the president turn for candid conversations that are immune from the subpoenas of partisan prosecutors? Only to lawyers like Robert Bennett and David Kendall, who have devoted their careers to private rather than public service, at \$400 an hour.

This is a recipe not only for loneliness but also for presidential paralysis. As Judge David Tatel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia objected in his powerful dissent from the recent decision to deny attorney-client privilege to Bruce Lindsey, the president's aide: "No president can navigate the treacherous waters of post-Watergate government, make controversial official legal decisions, decide whether to invoke official privileges, or even know when he might need private counsel, without confidential legal advice."

Thanks to Mr. Starr, the president is uniquely isolated. Judges assume that their conversations with their law clerks will be kept in confidence. Indeed, Supreme Court justices have traditionally told their clerks to treat their private deliberations as if they were protected by attorney-client privilege, and the justices become furious when their confidences are breached.

Grand jurors are similarly confident that prosecutors cannot invade the privacy of their internal deliberations without serious sanctions. Members of Congress, too, have faith that their private conversations with their aides will be protected, pointing to Article I, Section 6 of the U.S. Constitution, which says that "for any speech or debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other place."

Under the balance that the framers of the constitution established, the internal deliberations of each branch of government should not be lightly invaded by the prying of the other two branches.

Under threat of subpoena, the president agreed Wednesday to give videotaped testimony on Aug. 17. But the White House could have made serious (although untested) constitutional arguments suggesting that the independent counsel has no authority to force the president to give testimony in an investigation where he himself is the target.

facts, and, as the Supreme Court suggested in the case of the Nixon tapes, if the president defies a subpoena issued by Congress (as opposed to an independent counsel) that in itself would be grounds for impeachment.

House Republicans have a political incentive to delay the question of impeachment hearings until after the November elections. But instead of waiting for Mr. Starr's long-delayed report, members of Congress who take their constitutional duties seriously should preempt Mr. Starr's investigation by holding preliminary impeachment hearings immediately.

Unlike Mr. Starr, of course, they would have to pay a political price if they issued subpoenas that violated the president's privacy in ways that offended the people of the United States.

If polls continue to suggest that Americans are unconcerned by the president's alleged falsehoods in the Paula Jones civil case, then the House Judiciary Committee would probably end its hearings quickly, without voting on articles of impeachment.

If, on the other hand, Monica Lewinsky's revelations cause the country to rise up in moral indignation, the requirement of a two-thirds vote for conviction in the Senate would ensure that Mr. Clinton's fate was decided by moderate Democrats and Republicans, such as Joseph Lieberman and Olympia Snowe, rather than by rabid partisans.

Either way, swift impeachment hearings would restore the constitutional balance that Mr. Starr has unsettled.

The writer, legal affairs editor of The New Republic, teaches constitutional law at the George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C.

— International Herald Tribune

Class and religion in Clinton's America

By Gwynne Dyer

TO PUZZLED Koreans and Thais, the latest turn in the Clinton-Lewinsky melodrama just proves how inscrutable those Occidentals are. To Middle Easterners, it's obviously a Jewish conspiracy to undermine Clinton (though why Jews would want to undermine the most pro-Israeli president in recent American history goes unexplained). But the French, for once, have got it right.

Generally, the French are hopeless on American culture; they think, for example, that Jerry Lewis is the greatest artist of his generation. But they are aware (since it's their history, too)

is not the body-piercing, the rap music, and the other ephemera of pop culture; these were clever, worldly men who broke all the molds of their time, and they'd figure that stuff out pretty fast. But they would be deeply disappointed by the religiosity and hubbub of modern American public life, and they would wonder what went wrong.

It was partly inevitable. The founders of the republic included a high proportion of men who had little time for organised Christianity, and insisted on complete separation of religion and the state. But most Americans of the time were in the new world precisely because they were more religious than the European norm, religious dissenters of one sort or another who had moved to America to practise their beliefs freely. And numbers matter.

The non-religious wrote the constitution, but it was the religious who ultimately defined the norms of American public life. Even today, the United States is an astonishingly religious country, some 60 per cent of Americans go to church, synagogue or whatever once a month, a rate of public religious observance equalled in some Muslim countries, but ten times higher than in Europe.

So there was bound to be a permanent conflict between the popular impulse to legislate morality and the constitutional ban on mixing religion and politics. What tilted the balance, perhaps irrevocably, was the accident of the cold war. Communism was basically a political doctrine, part of an argument about the distribution of wealth and power that had been raging in Western culture for several hundred years. The atheism of Soviet-style Communism was merely a side issue — but it was the aspect most horrifying to devout Americans, so that was what the propagandists emphasised.

For four decades, American propaganda waged war against the "godless" Soviet Union, and in the course of it religious rhetoric took over much of the terrain previously reserved for the secular business of politics. America is probably more overtly religious now than at any time in its history.

Finally came modern mass media and the collapse of deference, making the private peccadilloes of public figures public property. Jack Kennedy could copulate with everything that moved and still escape media attention 35 years ago. Today, Clinton gets headlines for far less ambitious sexual adventures — and he gets judged by standards that are basically religious (despite the special prosecutor's list of alleged legal and constitutional violations).

Clinton may yet get away with it: he is the "Indiana Jones of American politics." But surely it would have been safer and easier if he had just opted for instant confession, a pseudo-religious media ritual of redemption that has become a staple of modern American public life.

If he had just said "I'm deeply sorry I did it, and I pray to God that He will help me mend my ways" (about Paula Jones, or Monica Lewinsky, or any other trouser problems) — and if his wife Hillary had said, "yes, he does have a trouser problem, but I love him for his other qualities and I'm standing by my man" — then he would have been off the hook with most of the American public.

So why didn't he? Some time ago, I asked that question of Shelby Foote, one of the finest American historians of his generation. And Foote simply drawled: "If you're from Arkansas, your first instinct is to lie."

Now Shelby Foote is from Mississippi, and Mississippians do not hold people from the neighbouring state of Arkansas in high esteem. In slavery days, the white planter aristocracy of Mississippi despised the poor, redneck farmers of Arkansas even more than their own home-grown "white trash," and attitudes linger.

It's not just religion that drives things in Clinton's America: it's also region and class. Within Shelby Foote's grand and sweeping slander, there is a kernel of truth: that Arkansas is a place where the vast majority of people have traditionally been entirely under the thumbs of the powerful few.

When you cannot trust the institutions to be fair or forgiving, it is generally wiser to deny all when you get into trouble. Clinton grew up in that tradition — so he didn't confess at the right time, and now he may be dragged under.

Meanwhile, George Washington spins quietly in his grave.

file in this Referring to the situation in the region that it is dangerous. He said the U.N. inspection expressing this problem solved and go be lifted.

With re Jordan's Islamic state Hassan said about relations which current the president Organisation ic Conference which political and moves playing gr in issues the Islamic The Reg to Palesti dent Yassa visit to Tur emphasis I question of saying that ic countries the future region.

Referring to the situation in the region that it is dangerous. He said the U.N. inspection expressing this problem solved and go be lifted.

With re Jordan's Islamic state Hassan said about relations which current the president Organisation ic Conference which political and moves playing gr in issues the Islamic The Reg to Palesti dent Yassa visit to Tur emphasis I question of saying that ic countries the future region.

Referring to the situation in the region that it is dangerous. He said the U.N. inspection expressing this problem solved and go be lifted.

With re Jordan's Islamic state Hassan said about relations which current the president Organisation ic Conference which political and moves playing gr in issues the Islamic The Reg to Palesti dent Yassa visit to Tur emphasis I question of saying that ic countries the future region.

Referring to the situation in the region that it is dangerous. He said the U.N. inspection expressing this problem solved and go be lifted.

With re Jordan's Islamic state Hassan said about relations which current the president Organisation ic Conference which political and moves playing gr in issues the Islamic The Reg to Palesti dent Yassa visit to Tur emphasis I question of saying that ic countries the future region.

Referring to the situation in the region that it is dangerous. He said the U.N. inspection expressing this problem solved and go be lifted.

With re Jordan's Islamic state Hassan said about relations which current the president Organisation ic Conference which political and moves playing gr in issues the Islamic The Reg to Palesti dent Yassa visit to Tur emphasis I question of saying that ic countries the future region.

Referring to the situation in the region that it is dangerous. He said the U.N. inspection expressing this problem solved and go be lifted.

With re Jordan's Islamic state Hassan said about relations which current the president Organisation ic Conference which political and moves playing gr in issues the Islamic The Reg to Palesti dent Yassa visit to Tur emphasis I question of saying that ic countries the future region.

Referring to the situation in the region that it is dangerous. He said the U.N. inspection expressing this problem solved and go be lifted.

Heroin scandal rocks London's devout Jewish community

By Paul Lashmar

THE ORTHODOX Jewish community in London has been shocked by a series of arrests of its members for alleged heroin smuggling. Police and Customs inquiries are centring on a drugs link between Israel, Antwerp and London.

Evidence of the new drugs link follows:

Two Jewish men are to appear British courts on heroin smuggling charges.

The professional execution on an Antwerp street in mid-July, of a Jewish jeweller and leading figure in the Russian Mafia.

A Talmudic scholar accused in Tel Aviv this month of laundering drugs money through his bank account.

The north London Orthodox community is remaining tight-lipped about the arrests, although it is thought to be severely embarrassed.

Several people in the community, who did not want to be named, said that the arrests were causing anger and deep concern.

The involvement of Orthodox Jews in hard drugs has echoes of the recent case in New York State where the puritanical Amish sect was torn by the arrest of several younger members for drug dealing.

The Orthodox and ultra-Orthodox communities of Stamford Hill and Golders Green in north London have a reputation for being largely crime-free. While some members of the Orthodox community have been jailed in the past for large-scale VAT frauds and other white collar crimes, it has never been associated with drugs or violent crime. The fact the arrests involve allegations of heroin has proved even more shocking.

Police in several European countries began to suspect that the diamond area of Antwerp was becoming an international centre for drug smuggling two years ago when an Orthodox Jewish man from Antwerp was arrested at Ramsgate.

Dror Hazenfratz, then 34, from Antwerp, was jailed for 11 years for trying to smuggle heroin. He was arrested by British customs officers while travelling with his wife and child in the family Peugeot

405. Underneath the child seat in the back customs officers found 15 kilos of heroin worth £750,000.

Hazenfratz, who was born in Haifa and holds an Israeli passport as well as a Belgian identity card, appeared in Canterbury court wearing traditional dress and carrying the Talmud. He had made other one-day trips to England.

Hazenfratz said he had been told to meet a Georgian Orthodox Jew at a north London hotel. The ultimate destination of the drugs was reportedly David Santini, a Glaswegian who at the time was Scotland's leading heroin dealer.

In an unrelated raid, Santini was arrested while repacking a £1.1 million consignment of heroin. He was jailed for 13 years. A senior officer in the case said: "He had massive connections with Britain's under-world and leads to European drug cartels."

Following the arrest of Hazenfratz drugs officers began to suspect a new drugs route. The last stopping point for most drugs coming into Britain is the Netherlands, but European police forces are making it more difficult to use that country as a transshipment point.

The collapse of Communism has also opened up new smuggling routes through Eastern Europe into London, and Antwerp is ideally suited as a drugs centre.

At the end of June British customs arrested a 19-year-old man from Antwerp in Dover with 10 kilos of heroin allegedly concealed in his hire car. He is awaiting trial. Shortly before an older man had been arrested at Coquelles at the French entrance to the Channel Tunnel. British customs allegedly found quantities of heroin and cocaine. The man was an American Orthodox Jew living in Stamford Hill.

British drugs officers suspect they are seeing the beginning of a new drug operation involving Antwerp's Orthodox Jews and the Russian Mafia. The Orthodox community has been a major player in the diamond and precious metal market. Antwerp has the largest diamond centre in the world. Other centres of the diamond business are Tel Aviv and Hatton Garden, London.



Antwerp's Orthodox community is close knitted but cosmopolitan with close links with similar communities in Israel, London, New York and Eastern Europe. It is an Ashkenazi community which originated mainly from East Europe. However, over the past two years the diamond business has taken a downturn for the small trader and the trade has moved mainly into the hands of big corporations such as DeBeers. In addition, last year, police made a series of raids of diamond businesses suspected of tax evasion and money laundering.

According to one customs source, smuggling diamonds from Antwerp to London's Hatton Garden has been on for many years. This expertise in smuggling has now been turned to a more sinister trade.

The Russian Mafia has made Antwerp a centre of its operations and has been able to use the expertise of a community that has fallen on hard times.

Evidence of the violence associated with drug crime surfaced again in Antwerp three weeks ago. A Jewish trader in precious metals in the city, Rachmeil "Mike" Brandwain, also reputed to be a leading figure in the Russian Mafia, was shot dead. Underworld gossip has it that he had informed on another leading figure in the Russian Mafia who had been arrested in New York.

In the 1980s Brandwain had sold gold that was smuggled into Britain for a VAT fraud being run in Hatton Garden. A customs operation code-named "Operation Fiddler" arrested a number of men in London. Brandwain was also

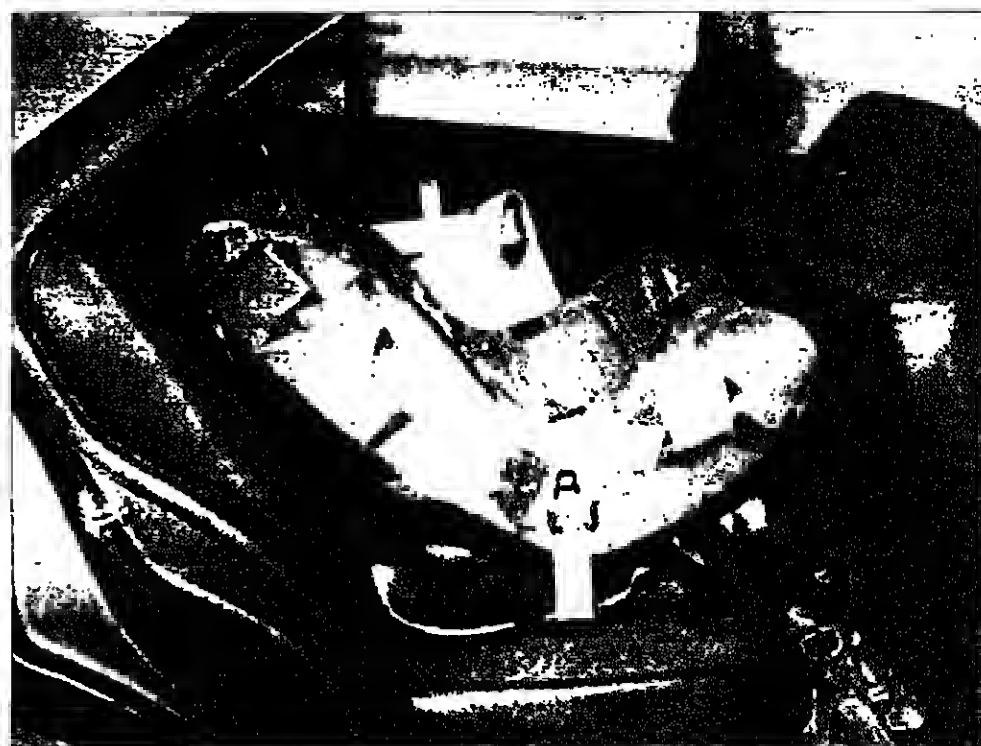
suspected to be a cocaine dealer.

In July in Tel Aviv, three British drugs officers were in court to see an Israeli man charged with laundering money from an international drugs ring.

According to local police, the British officers were from M16 — the remit of the overseas arm of British intelligence was extended to cover international drug smuggling.

Israel Aron Albam, a 38-year-old Talmudic scholar, married with eight children, was released on a bail of 8 million shekels (around £1.3 million). The Tel Aviv court was told that British authorities had been involved with the seizure of two boat-loads of drugs, the first in 1992 with two tonnes of cocaine and one tonne of cocaine.

The shipments originated



Aron Albam (left) appeared in court in Tel Aviv watched, it is said, by officers of the British intelligence services. He is accused of laundering money from an international drugs ring. The car (above) used by Dror Hazenfratz to smuggle heroin, which was concealed beneath his child's car seat (Main photo by Eli Dassa)

from Columbia and were heading for Holland. The second boat was seized in Portugal and a British citizen known only as "John" was arrested. He claimed that Albam had given him £48,000 to pay for the yacht. The court was told that a number of men are held by the British authorities in connection with the smuggling

ring. Albam is an Ashkenazi of the large Vishnitz sect. Police inquiries revealed that Albam was on a Israeli government grant for poor scholars to study the Talmud at the Yeshiva (theology college). He had travelled to New York and London, apparently collecting money for charity. However, Israeli police found 400 mil-

lion shekels (£66 million) in his bank account. The account was in the Israeli religious bank which is tax exempt.

Albam admitted that he ran "a private bank" but claims that he did the laundering only for the charedim (the Orthodox). He has denied any connection with drugs dealings.

Regent calls for patience on King's homecoming

(Continued from page 1)

"We cannot move to the final status negotiations without dealing with the technical points and we remain optimistic about the second and third re-deployment phases which will lead to the final stage and also the involvement of all concerned parties including Syria and Lebanon."

In reply to a question about Jordan's efforts to break the deadlock in the negotiations, the Regent said that Jordan objects Israeli changes on the ground.

"We cannot accept further population migrations and let us be clear that we seek to protect Jordanian interests. It is in Jordan's interest, and in view of our close ties with the Palestinian brothers, that we support the Palestinian people to consolidate their presence on their national soil," the Prince added.

He further said that "we have moved to clarify our position and to say that there should be progress through the U.S. plan. We have not closed the

file in this respect."

Referring to the general situation in the region the Regent said that it is fraught with danger. He referred to the U.N. weapons inspection task in Iraq expressing hope that this problem will be solved and the embargo be lifted.

With reference to Jordan's ties with Islamic states, Prince Hassan said: "We talk about developing our relations with Iran which currently holds the presidency of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) which undertakes political and diplomatic moves as it is displaying great interest in issues common to the Islamic World."

The Regent referred to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's visit to Turkey and the emphasis laid on the question of Jerusalem saying that the Islamic countries are showing great interest in the future of this region.

Referring to the Cabinet's deliberations, Prince Hassan said that he heard a briefing from Acting Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour about the mea-

sures taken by the government in dealing with internal issues.

"King Hussein is following up on Jordan's issues on a daily basis and it is the King's concern over the Jordanian people's issues that prompted me to pay a visit to the Council of Ministers today."

The regent noted that the council of ministers focused attention on economic issues and on state spending.

He said "the issue of public spending will be openly discussed during this month and the focus will be on the creation of new mechanisms in setting priorities for this issue."

He said the government, Parliament, unions, and political parties ought to shoulder the responsibility in taking part in a dialogue that would bring about a positive change in Jordanian people's life.

He stressed on the need for reforms with the involvement of various public sectors.

Ensour sets up an independent panel to investigate water crisis

(Continued from page 1)

treat water "as soon as they noticed the smell and colour of the water."

"Most of the reports say the water was polluted before it reached Zai Treatment Plant," Deputy Ayed Adallah told reporters. "Therefore, it is not the fault of Zai technicians as the government says."

Deputy Fawaz Zu'bi criticised Dr. Haddadin for "giving the media and the people inaccurate information about the situation instead of telling the truth."

"Although the water pollution is under control as the minister told us, I request that Water Ministry and Water Authority officials be put on trial, starting with the minister himself," Mr. Zu'bi told reporters.

"We must not blame ZTP technicians because they began informing the ministry about the polluted water on June 15," he added. "They also asked for help after they could not deal with the great amount of algae and other organic substances. But the ministry did not do anything." The Water Ministry said last week that it had detected the cause of the discoloured and foul-smelling water and brought the situation under control.

But it steered clear of specifying the source of the problem — initially blamed on algae found in water supplies that soared to higher than usual levels as a result of hot weather conditions.

According to Mr. Zu'bi, the ministers of water and health are blaming each other for the cri-

sis. Dr. Haddadin and the Minister of Health and Medical Care, Ashraf Kurd were not available for comment.

Raja Gedeon, a former assistant secretary general of Water Authority and a water expert, said that standards at the ZTP should be improved.

He added that lack of transparency and an absence of an accurate diagnosis of pollutants reaching the station exaggerated the problem.

Al Arab Al Yawm daily news paper published on Monday excerpts from a preliminary report by the American water consultancy firm, Stanley Consultants, highlighting the findings that Yarmouk River, Lake Tiberias and Mukhaibeh had high concentration of faecal coliforms (body waste).

The report, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times, concluded that the ZTP was suffering from "severe constraints that have been added to the plant since its initial design." "These constraints include a Yarmouk River water source that has become highly contaminated with faecal coliform, and a new source from Lake Tiberias which contributes high concentrations of algae and total organic carbon. Additionally, these abnormally high loading, particularly the algae, are not consistent over time," the report reads.

The ministry of Health on Monday, issued a statement reaffirming that water treated at ZTP and pumped to Amman was fit for human consumption.

PNA rejects Israeli pullback proposals

(Continued from page 1)

will take a willingness on the side of the Palestinians," he said.

The U.S. proposals, accepted by the Palestinians several months ago, would require Israel to turn an additional 13 per cent of the West Bank over to Palestinian control to fulfil an interim peace accord signed in 1995.

In exchange, the Palestinians would take tougher action against anti-Israeli militants and the two sides would launch long-overdue negotiations on a permanent peace settlement.

Mr. Netanyahu has resisted the U.S. plan for months, claiming that a pullback from 13 per cent of the West Bank would place vital Israeli interests, including Jewish settlements in the West Bank, in jeopardy.

Israel has offered instead to cede 10 per cent of the territory to Palestinian rule, while designating a further three per cent as "nature reserves" where the PNA would have only very limited civilian control.

Mr. Arafat insists the PNA be given full control over all 13 per cent although Palestinians have signalled a willingness to accept limits on construction in the "nature reserve" areas.

Israel had promised "new ideas" for the withdrawal at Monday's meeting.

But Palestinian negotiator Hassan Asfour said the ideas amounted only to slightly expanding the civilian powers the authority would have in the nature reserves while leaving all control over security and public order in the hands of Israel.

"The Israeli 'new ideas' showed that the Israeli govern-

ment wants to waste time and the Palestinian Authority has no time to waste," Mr. Asfour said.

"The Israelis should now take their ideas to the American administration to solve the problems...instead of trying to get the Palestinians to accept changes to the major points in the U.S. initiative, because this will never happen," he said.

On Monday, the U.S. State Department called on both Israelis and Palestinians to pursue their talks and put "specific proposals on the table" concerning the scope of the troop withdrawals.

The Palestinians currently have full control over three per cent of the West Bank and around 60 per cent of the Gaza Strip and partial control over another 24 per cent of the West Bank, where the Israeli army retains security powers.

Kahalani in Amman Thursday

(Continued from page 1)

against withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights, diplomats said.

According to analysts, Jordan, which enjoys credibility with both Palestinians and Israelis, is exerting pressure on all concerned parties to move the process forward.

"Jordan is playing an active role and maintaining contacts with the Israeli government, the opposition, the Palestinians and the Egyptians to avert a total breakdown," said the official. "Jordan's national security interests are at stake."

Jordan is keeping a close watch on development on the Israeli-Palestinian peace track, which has been deadlocked since Tel Aviv's decision to build a settlement in Jabal Abu Ghneim. Jordan has voiced its worry that a breakdown in talks could have negative repercussions on the Kingdom and the region.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Jawad Anani held talks with Mr. Netanyahu in Israel and the Palestinian top negotiator Mahmoud Abbas visited Jordan last month to discuss ways of jumpstarting the peace process. Israel has rejected U.S. propos-

als calling on it to cede another 13 per cent of the West Bank to Palestinian self-rule in exchange for Palestinian steps to deter anti-Israeli violence, whereas Palestinian President Yasser Arafat has accepted the U.S. plan.

Israeli press reports say Israel has suggested a handover of 10 per cent of the West Bank while limiting Palestinian rule over a further three per cent which will be designated as a "nature reserve."

Israel and Palestinian negotiators last month resumed their first direct contacts in months to break the 17-month-old impasse.

Lebanon fights to prove financial credibility

BEIRUT (R) — Expectations of a 1998 budget deficit approaching 42 per cent of expenditure would cause shudders in most countries, but in Lebanon the news is cause for celebration.

Not only would meeting that target be a marked improvement on last year's 59 per cent deficit, but the government's apparent success in keeping to its promise for the first time in several years is surprising private economists who were sceptical when the budget plans were unveiled at the start of the year.

"It is our target to achieve a better figure than the budget figure," said Rafik Siniora, minister of state for financial affairs, told Reuters. "I can really very safely say we will end the year with a lower deficit than what was anticipated in the budget."

Through the first six months of the year the government has run a deficit of 55 per cent, meaning they only have to cover half their expenditure in the second half to meet the target set in the budget law.

"They're doing a very good job with the fiscal targets," said Kamal Shihadi, director of Middle East and North Africa sovereign risk for Thomson BankWatch. "I'm very optimistic because I think this was the major problem. Once you put your fiscal house in order, things can start improving."

"This is the second step in three major phases," he added. "First you stabilise the currency, then you stabilise the budget and then you implement reforms which are more complicated."

Lebanon's currency has been stabilised since Prime Minister

Rafik Al Hariri took office in 1992, two years after a 15-year civil war ended. Last November political leaders agreed for the first time on the need to cut a deficit that had pushed the national debt to near the level of the annual gross domestic product (GDP).

Debt affects ratings. The mounting debt, combined with the chronic failure to meet deficit targets, prompted rating agencies to lower their assessments for Lebanon this year.

Although officials say that action reflected the past rather than the improving present situation, they privately do not expect any rise in Lebanon's credit rating before the government shows it can meet this year's deficit target.

However, finance department officials are confident they are turning the situation around, reporting a primary surplus this year.

One senior official said the ratio of debt to GDP — which the government says is slightly less than 100 per cent but most private economists say is now over that yardstick — would probably peak inside the next 12 months.

According to Mr. Siniora, meeting this year's target will mean a deficit equal to 12 per cent of GDP, down from 23 per cent in 1997. Mr. Hariri has promised to eliminate the deficit in eight years.

For private economists, the focus is shifting from 1998 targets to prospects for 1999, after this autumn's election of a new president, when some delayed costs should hit the budget.

Although Mr. Siniora and other finance ministry officials adamantly deny there is a policy to delay payments to flatter the figures, many economists believe bills are going unpaid. "They are going to make sure they are safe until the end of this year," said an economist who asked not to be identified. "I can understand them being very, very insistent on at least officially getting the figures under 42 per cent."

Worrying factors. Economists also fear the government will not win its battle to minimise the impact of a proposed wage increase for civil servants that bankers warn made retroactive to 1996. Annual costs could add 600 billion Lebanese pounds (\$400 million) to expenditures that are set at 7,920 billion pounds this year.

There has also been little mention of a plan announced by Lebanon's leaders last year to cut 60,000 jobs from the bloated 160,000 public payroll over six years. Privately, officials concede it will be hard to make cuts opposed by politicians who installed their followers in the jobs.

The cost of debt servicing and salaries takes up between 75 per cent and 80 per cent of the budget, leaving little other room for cuts.

The alternative to cuts — raising taxes — has also been difficult. Part of this year's improvement has come from an increase in import tariffs and a restaurant tax, but a higher petrol tax has been repeatedly blocked and enforcement of Lebanon's low 10 per cent income tax remains spotty.

"If we move taxes from the current 16.5 per cent (of GDP) to 25 per cent, which is still lower than the Middle East average of 28 per cent, we will definitely set the prerequisites of a fiscal soft landing," said Marwan Barakat, head of research at Banque Audi.

The government says it is in synch with those private assessments, that 1998 marked the start of fiscal responsibility that will be maintained.

Netanyahu orders job-creation plan

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Tuesday gave the finance and labour ministries 24 hours to come up with a plan for creating 20,000 new jobs within two months, a Treasury official said.

"Netanyahu has instructed the Finance Minister (Yaacov Neeman) and the Labour and Social Affairs Minister (Eli Yishai) to come up with a concrete plan to put 20,000 unemployed people to work within the next two months," said Eyal Applebaum, Mr. Neeman's media adviser.

Mr. Netanyahu's instructions come amid growing pressure on Netanyahu's government to stem Israel's rising unemployment.

The prime minister has said the 1999 budget, on which the cabinet will begin deliberations next week, will seek to create jobs and spur growth. On Monday, he said he was forming an advisory council to address the problem.

Ms. Applebaum did not have any details about which sectors would benefit from the job-creation plan or where the money to finance the plan would come from.

Unemployment has risen steadily since Mr. Netanyahu took office in June 1996, reaching an estimated 9.3 per cent in May from 6.5 per cent.

Treasury spokesman Eli Yosef said the Labour Ministry had 700 million shekels that was previously earmarked to sponsor job creation. Mr. Neeman's and Mr. Yishai's staff were expected to meet on Tuesday night to hammer out a blueprint.

Under growing criticism for his handling of Israel's troubled economy, Mr. Netanyahu announced Monday the creation of a high-level commission to battle unemployment.

Following a cabinet debate on the worsening recession, Mr. Netanyahu's office said

the "socio-economic council" would include senior ministers, the central bank governor and the head of Israel's powerful Histadrut trade union federation.

"The council will formulate proposals for addressing various problems including, first and foremost, unemployment," the cabinet statement said.

The move coincided with the release of a report by the Israeli Manufacturers Association forecasting that unemployment would reach 10 per cent of the work force in 1999. Joblessness has risen steadily since Mr. Netanyahu's right-wing government came to power in June 1996 and currently stands at 9.3 per cent, a five-year high.

At the same time, economic growth is expected to drop to barely one per cent this year, down from an average six per cent from 1994 to 1996 and the lowest level in Israel in 32 years.

The deepening recession coupled with the persistent crisis in the peace process with the Palestinians has prompted opposition politicians and even senior members of Mr. Netanyahu's own coalition to call for early elections — now scheduled to be held in 2000.

Government officials said the new council would hold its first meeting this week, during which members will be called upon to present concrete proposals for easing unemployment.

The opposition Labour Party was quick to dismiss Mr. Netanyahu's new council as a "public relations gimmick."

"Anyone who wants to combat unemployment effectively should shift funds being spent on the Jewish settlements (in the occupied territories) to the development towns inside Israel where unemployment is highest," the party said in a statement.

REUTERS REUTERS The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	1.0000	1.7883	0.8085	1.4800	142.43	1.0667	1743.00	1.9324	6.5474
DE Mark	0.5656	1.0000	0.3446	0.5359	80.86	0.6310	986.65	1.1279	3.3638
GB Sterling	1.2407	2.9005	1.0000	1.4800	166.09	1.0667	1743.00	1.9324	6.5474
CH Franc	0.6757	1.1837	0.4114	1.0000	96.22	1.0172	1178.12	134.66	4.0040
JP Yen	0.0070	1.2411	0.4278	1.0387	1.0000	1.0574	12.24	139.91	4.1613
CA Dollar	0.6637	1.2916	0.4225	1.0568	1.08	1.0000	1270.80	1.4551	4.3285
IT Lira	0.0006	1.9134	0.3491	0.0848	1228.39	0.0852	1.0000	11.42	3.3674
NL Guilder	0.6019	88.83	0.3054	74.21	71.38	0.7682	874.64	1.0000	2.9724
FR Franc	0.1668	0.2981	0.1027	24.9518	24.01	0.2640	33.62	33.6200	1.0000

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	QAT	KUW	AED	LBP	EGP	
US Dollar	1.0000	0.7090	3.7602	0.3770	3.6402	0.3664	1608.00	3.4220	
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	1.0000	5.2894	0.5317	5.1343	0.4322	2126.94	4.8266	
Saudi Riyal	0.2667	0.1891	1.0000	0.1005	0.97	0.0817	0.98	402.11	0.9122
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8807	9.9477	1.0000	9.86	0.8128	9.74	4000.11	9.0778
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1948	1.0302	1.0000	1.01	0.0842	1.01	414.26	0.9401
Kuwait Dinar	3.2638	2.3138	12.2388	1.2303	11.88	1.199	4921.38	0.9401	
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1930	1.0210	0.1028	0.9911	0.0834	410.57	0.9317	
Lebanese Lira	0.86	0.4702	2.4888	0.2800	2.4139	0.2032	2.4356	1.0000	2.2892
Egyptian	0.2822	0.2072	1.0959	0.1102	1.0838	0.0896	1.0733	440.68	1.0000

Energy									
Oil	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY				
Brent	0.00	0.00							
WTI	14.09	14.16							
Bonny	0.00	0.00							
Dubai	12.88	12.48							
UL Gas	139.00	141.00							

Metal Prices									
Metal	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY				
Gold (oz's)	290.4	290.9							
Silver (oz's)	8.64	8.67							
Platinum (oz's)	377	378							
AL (3 Months)	1380	1383							
CU (3 Months)	1724	1728							
Zinc (3 Months)	1086	1096							
Lead (3 Months)	858	869							
Ni (3 Months)	4446	4455							

Main Equity Indices									
Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pr Cls		
New York	DOW JONES	8921.39	6.43	0.07	8921.39	8914.41	8914.36		
New York	S&P 500	1128.93	1.71	0.15	1128.93	1125.21	1125.21		
London	FT-SE 100	5893.5	49.4	0.85	5898.8	5842.3	5844.1		
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	16201.8	43.51	0.27	16311.5	16190.7	16158.1		
Paris	CAC 40	4202.88	63.69	1.54	4202.88	4152.81	4159.19		
Frankfurt	DAX	5897.05	43.42	0.74	5897.29	5837.81	5853.63		

Energy									
Commodity	Last	Delivery							
Coffee (c/lbs)	117.6	Spot							
Cocoa (c/lbs)	1858	Spot							
Sugar (c/lbs)	280	Spot							
Wheat (c/lbs)	0	Spot							
Soy (c/lbs)	24.22	Spot							
Tea (c/lbs)	125	Spot							
Barley (c/lbs)	0	Spot							
Rice (c/lbs)	415	Spot							

JOD Cross Rates									
Currency	Buy	Sell							
US Dollar	0.708	0.710							
GB Sterling	1.1637	1.1695							
DE Mark	0.3995	0.4015							
CH Franc	0.4768	0.4792							
FR Franc	0.1193	0.1198							
JP Yen	0.0497	0.04995							
NL Guilder	0.3543	0.3561							
IT Lira	0.4049	0.4069							

Super Deluxe Apartment For Rent
Well furnished apartment situated in Abdoun is available for annual rent. Consists of 3 bedrooms, living room, 3 bathrooms, with American kitchen, garage, garden, telephone & satellite.
Contact Khatib at 5924066-Mobile 079796425

Vacant Position
A diplomatic mission is in need of a highly qualified secretary with excellent translation skills, computer literate and office administration experience. Minimum qualifications: University degree preferable AUC or AUS graduate in a related field with three years experience. Those interested please write in English to: Administration Officer, P.O. Box 3060 Amman-11161. All applications will be treated in confidentiality.

ONE LOOK SAYS IT ALL
THERE ARE MANY SHADES OF
DAJANI
The architects of fine Jewellery
Amra Forum Hotel Shops. Phone: 5527118 Amman

Job losses mount as Britain struggles with high pound, low productivity

LONDON (AFP) — The twin strains of high interest rates and low productivity are blighting British business, with widespread job losses and gloomy forecasts piling pressure on the Bank of England before it meets on monetary conditions on Thursday.

Union leaders and bosses united on Monday with calls for the central bank, freed by the Labour government to set interest rates in May 1997, not to raise rates for the seventh time

since then. Forecasts of impending recession here have gained force after the loss of high-profile international investments and cut backs at small British firms.

The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) employers' group said in its latest survey of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) that almost one third of companies have shed workers since April.

The CBI predicts worse to come in the face of the lowest

export orders to small businesses since 1980. Domestic demand for manufactured products also fell for the first time since the last recession.

CBI SME spokesman, Colin Perry, said in a statement: "The outlook for manufacturing SMEs is bleak... SMEs are cutting jobs and expect to make more redundancies in the coming four months."

The CBI has led the chorus urging lower interest rates, insisting that British factories

have been unable to compete in international markets given the 30 per cent rise in sterling since mid-1997.

High profile factory closures have captured the headlines in the past two weeks. On Friday, the German electronics giant Siemens said it would close a micro-chip plant here with the loss of 1,100 jobs.

The announcement came just one week after the German car maker BMW said that it was to shed 1,500 jobs at its British

Rover unit, citing the strength of sterling.

The leader of the general GMB union, John Edmonds, warned in a statement that "some 250,000 jobs are in jeopardy because of high interest rates and the high pound."

The government has conceded that the strong pound is denting balance sheets, but insists that low productivity is the root cause of business failure here.

Productivity is 30 per cent lower here than in the United

States and 20 per cent lower than in France and Germany, ministers say.

Unions and the CBI agree that the productivity of British companies has suffered from low skills training at work.

"We have two problems, we certainly have a productivity problem and that needs to be addressed," Mr. Edmonds told the BBC. "But the second problem is the high value of the pound."

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

THSPuzzles@aol.com

ACROSS

- Sam's glow
- Cabbage dish
- Cries of
- Shrimp
- See poem
- Leban additive, often
- Wrote Seymour
- the night
- He's
- Sam
- Autobiography
- What Sam
- played, again
- Electric devices
- Compass
- Crucial or
- Se look
- monument with
- seize medals
- Wag
- comedian
- and
- Adams male
- Green pan
- Sam
- Cooper, Sals
- and Nash song
- from "Way
- Shore
- Flut of bounce
- Wishes
- Human salad"
- "Ole There"
- 100
- Scot's loss
- Slowly step
- On madcap
- Be added
- Carpentry tool
- Crypt
- Scavenger's
- leather
- Recital

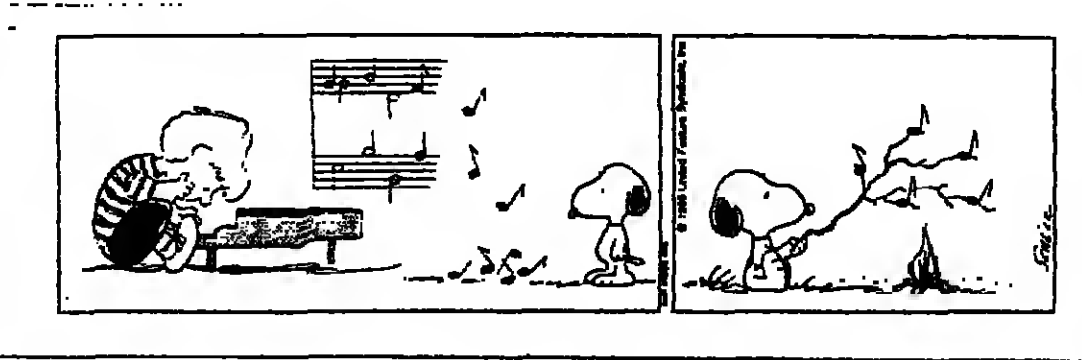
DOWN

- Emcee
- Sneak
- Peruvian
- social
- Smiles
- Put in stitches
- Keeping
- company with
- Classified for
- Top markman
- Most breached
- Dugout golfer
- Excuse
- Four-bagger
- Sows
- Rabbis' kin
- Makes
- insensitive
- Strike-caller, in
- brief
- Easily imposed
- upon
- Painful throb
- Serb or Croat
- Biblical weed
- Mischievous
- child
- Young hoarder
- Mexican menu
- item
- Hot chamber
- Female horse
- Slitlike
- Toothlike
- projection
- Book before
- Mach
- With furor
- Chie
- Vigor
- Leaned to one
- side
- "The Night of
- the
- More follower?
- 45 Philippine
- island
- Co-star of 17A
- Oh my gosh!
- Part of a
- wireglass
- 52 In person
- Prayer ending
- 54 Combination of
- cards
- 56 Modern: pref.
- 57 Pie mode

By James E. Buell
Fort Washington, MD

AREAS EBBIS SLOW
VILLIA LOOT YER
ITALIA LYRA IVAN
VIANEISSA'S OULINIS
NOT TRUE
RAPS ADOSS STAGS
AGE ALOOE ATTURE
VERONICASCLOSET
ENSIGN LORE LEI
STELLE OTTO PENIN
SLUR SPA
VICTORIA'S SECRET
ARLO GAGA DIEGO
MAIN ENOS ANDOR
PEPE SAGS LOOSE

Peanuts



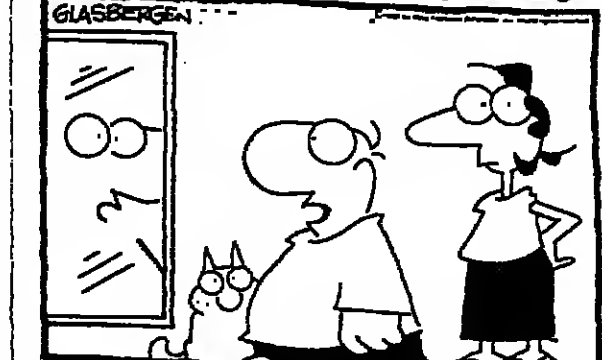
Andy Capp



Mutt'n Jeff



THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VILIC

PYJUM

LABBED

LANTUF

Answers: HE WAS, JUMBLE, AROMA, CAMEO, MUSKET, INNATE

Yesterday's Jumble Answer: AROMA CAMEO MUSKET INNATE

Now arrange the nine letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answers Monday: HE WAS, JUMBLE, AROMA, CAMEO, MUSKET, INNATE

Now arrange the nine letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

Abu Hassan: 'The least cooperation with the industrial sector comes from the Ministry of Industry and Trade'

THE BUDGETS in Jordan are mostly for salaries and pensions and not for building the economy despite all the challenges that we face," the president of the Amman Chamber of Industry (ACI) told the financial and economic committee of the Lower House of Parliament recently.

ACI President Khaldoun Abu Hassan indicated that the industrial sector in Jordan provides more than 150,000 job opportunities and, at 22 per cent, is the highest contributor in the gross domestic product. Yet, despite all of this, "the sector is targeted and suffering the most since the death of the agricultural sector, and the construction is saying its last words."

Mr. Abu Hassan said the Jordanian economic problem lies in not having a strategy. "There are individual decisions, sometimes personal and moody, in addition to implementing ideas coming from the World Bank without discussing them." He added that some measures when implemented turn out to be tougher than what the World Bank has required.

The ACI chief pointed out that the industrial sector is currently operating at less than 50 per cent of its capacity and that production is continuously retreating while the dismissal of workers and staff has reached a rate of 25 per cent sometimes. He mentioned also that some Jordanian industrialists have started to set up industries in Saudi Arabia, Dubai, Egypt and some republics of Central Asia similar to those they have in Jordan. "The least cooperation with the industrial sector comes from the Ministry of

Industry and Trade which has shown no concern in breaking up the sector by encouraging the establishment of new chambers of industry, rejecting the formation of a Jordan Chamber of Industry and not defending industrial interests, or solving the problems of industrialists," Mr. Abu Hassan stressed. He emphasised that the ACI had often called for exempting production input from customs and duties in order to enable the local industrialists to compete in quality and prices against foreign products. "The ACI has offered to compensate the treasury for the loss expected as a result of exemptions," he noted.

Mr. Abu Hassan described the current economic policy as "fulfilling outside requirements and neglecting internal requirements." He explained that the Department of Customs and other government institutions seek only to deepen the trend of collecting revenues without showing any flexibility even at the expense of investment and economic growth.

The president of the ACI contended that the unemployment rate is between 25 and 30 per cent and not 12 to 15 per cent as some official parties claim.

"The Ministry of Planning has requested the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan to conduct a study about unemployment and specified the result before hand to be not more than 12 per cent," he said. "The centre refused to carry out the study as it detected an intention to conceal facts," Mr. Abu Hassan concluded.

Demand for dollar returns to normal

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Demand for the U.S. dollar returned to normal in the money market this week, days after His Majesty King Hussein assured the country about his health condition.

Fawaz Kabariti, a moneychanger, said demand for the U.S. dollar dropped in the market showing confidence in the national currency.

On July 14, the King flew to Mayo-Clinic in Minnesota for checkups after complaining from recurrent fever and cold sweats.

The news about the King's health condition led to a brief demand for the dollar and pushed the dollar exchange rate to JD0.7140-JD0.7150 up from JD0.7110-JD0.7120.

In a televised interview with Jordan Television from Minnesota on July 28, the King told the Jordanian people that the lymphoma with which he was diagnosed is curable and his response to the first phase of the chemotherapy was positive.

"His Majesty's words were enough to cool off the fears and restore confidence in the national currency," Mr. Kabariti told the Jordan Times.

He pointed that "people now change their holdings from dollars and other hard currencies back to dinars."

"Moneychangers and commercial banks coordinated with the Central Bank to calm down the situation," he added.

Mr. Kabariti indicated that the dollar rate is currently ranging from JD0.7115 to JD0.7125.

Awad Saudi, another moneychanger, said demand for dollars, which almost tripled in the past week, returned to normal this week.

"People's demand returned to normal and they are not rushing now to change their holdings from dinars into dollars as it happened in the past week," Mr. Saudi said.

AFM report analyses share trading in June

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Turnover at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) declined by JD12.8 million in June compared to the previous month while the general price index decreased by 5.2 points during the same period, a stock market report indicated Tuesday.

The report on the stock market activities for June showed that the turnover amounted to JD19 million compared to JD31.8 million during May while the number of shares that were traded in June was 7.1 million compared to 18.2 million in the previous month.

The general price index in the organised market recorded in June was 174.6 points compared to 179.8 points in May, a drop of 5.2 points, the report, which was made available

to the Jordan Times showed.

The banking sector won 60.2 per cent of the total turnover during June followed by the industrial sector with 30.1 per cent. The services sector accounted for 7.8 per cent and finally the insurance sector for 1.9 per cent, the report indicated.

It pointed out that the banking sector won JD11.4 million of the June turnover compared to JD18.6 million during May, followed by the industrial sector which recorded JD5.7 million in June compared to JD18.2 million recorded in the previous month.

The services sector registered JD1.4 in June compared to JD3 million in May and finally the insurance sector totalled JD360.598 compared to JD215.078 a month before.

The Arab Bank, the Kingdom's largest financial institution, emerged the big winner during the June trading with a turnover amounting to JD7 million followed by the Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing with JD1.8 million and JD1.4 million for the Housing Bank.

The largest number of shares that were traded was registered by the Jordan National Bank with 774,714 shares followed by the Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Company (630,622) and the Housing Bank (502,760).

The average daily turnover recorded during June was JD904,949 down from JD1.3 million in the previous month, the bulletin indicated.

The highest price for shares recorded at the AFM was the Arab Bank share whose closing price was JD195 followed by the Jordan Petroleum Refinery with a closing price of JD11 and Jordan Hotel and Tourism Company at JD9.08.

The bulletin showed that the turnover in the parallel market during June amounted to JD4.1 million, with the services sector posting JD1.9 million followed by the industrial sector which recorded JD1.5 million.

The banking sector accounted for JD628,287 and finally insurance sector for JD9,513.

The number of transactions that were concluded on the trading floor was 1,573,542 shares with a value amounting to JD3 million compared to 1,739,285 shares valued at JD6.7 million in the previous month.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDAN											
TELEPHONE: 507171 / 507179											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 04/08/1998											
SLIP NO	12 MONTHS HIGH	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE	
6	355.500	170.000	ARAB BANK	17.8	92	11	950	207200	216.00	218.00	-
2	1.100	1.500	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	13.6	4.88	8	535	660	1.65	1.61	-
3	3.230	1.130	BANK OF JORDAN	8	0.00	10	2387	2713	1.15	1.13	-0.02
1	1.300	0.870	MID. EAST INV. BK.	68.3	0.00	4	700	722	1.02	1.04	0.02+
2	2.660	1.550	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	10.9	6.65	9	50720	78531	1.56	1.56	-
6	6.510	2.510	JOR. HOUSING BK.	19.5	3.26	6	8900	27185	3.07	3.07	-
6	4.000	1.690	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	17.6	0.00	10	3150	5424	1.72	1.72	-
3	3.900	1.150	JOR. INV. FID. BANK	23.8	3.23	7	2139	3214	1.55	1.55	-
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 289.16	CHNG: -0.01	65	74166	333909				
2	2.310	2.200	UNITED INSURANCE	39.9	0.00	2	525	1155	2.20	2.20	-
2	2.850	1.620	JOR. FREEDOM TRUST	7.6	9.23	2	100	3021	2.80	2.71	-0.09
2	2.630	1.200	JORDAN GULF INSUR.	9	0.00	2	86	126	1.54	1.47	-0.07
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 129.63	CHNG: -0.72	6	1711	4312				
6	2.240	1.470	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	10.1	5.32	7	2864	4439	1.55	1.55	-
4	4.030	1.410	INBID ELECTRICITY	16.1	3.85	3	155	398	2.60	2.60	-
2	9.500	5.100	ALBA-T	8.8	0.00	3	5163	580	5.80	5.75	-0.05
4	4.600	1.880	ARAB TEL. INV. HDQ.	9.6	2.07	4	560	1059	1.90	1.93	0.03+
1	1.070	0.890	KARMA EDUCATION	21.4	0.00	8	7550	6971	.93	.93	-
2	1.830	1.300	UNITED CO.	5.7	8.59	22	5550	7179	1.31	1.28	-0.03-
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 120.99	CHNG: +0.17	47	17219	23207				
4	4.000	1.840	JOR. CHEMIST FACT.	11.4	6.73	13	3600	6836	1.87	1.92	0.05+
6	5.900	1.900	ARAB POTASH CO.	24.1	4.08	2	250	1220	4.80	4.90	0.10+
15	250	9.670	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	10.4	8.27	8	260	2798	10.75	10.75	-
8	5.980	4.450	JORDAN TANNERY	7.4	8.70	3	2585	11709	4.65	4.60	-0.05-
2	1.570	1.000	JOR. FREEDOM TRUST	11.4	6.06	2	200	206	1.02	1.02	-
1	1.820	1.060	INDUSTRIAL COMM. BK.	61.4	0.00	1	250	285	1.15	1.14	-0.01
6	5.740	2.400	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	7.4	2.78	69	70306	189845	2.68	2.70	0.02+
5	5.900	1.450	JOR. CHEMIST IND.	6.0	7.25	9	1700	2374	1.45	1.38	-0.07
2	2.490	1.750	JOR. PALMS CANOES	10.9	0.00	9	587	1222	1.84	1.83	-0.01
8	4.640	5.300	ARAB CHEM. BYPROD.	7.9	7.00	2	50	357	7.15	7.14	-0.01
6	6.350	4.700	DAR ALAMANA DV. INV.	6.5	6.47	5	1200	6487	5.40	5.41	0.01+
3	3.890	1.880	GENERAL INVESTMENT	16.8	2.72	1	1000	3680	3.68	3.68	-
2	4.80	1.440	NATURAL GAS	9	0.00	1	220	220	.44	.44	-
1	1.590	0.370	INTERMED. PETRO. COM.	9	0.00	1	1000	390	.41	.39	-0.02
2	1.680	0.430	JOR. ROYALTY IND.	9	0.00	1	200	84	.43	.42	-0.01-
2	2.760	0.660	UNIV. CHEM. IND.	39.4	9.30	1	250	215	.86	.86	-
2	2.130	0.790	WATZ. CABLE WIRE. INVC	39.4	9.30	12	2500	7660	.84	.84	-
2	1.730	0.510	JOR. SULFUR COM.	9.7	0.00	11	9500	4846	.51	.51	-
1	1.470	1.130	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	14.2	4.65	27	8500	10922	1.27	1.29	0.02+
2	1.750	0.750	CHAMPION INVEST.	7.8	0.00	3	2600	1657	.41	.42	0.02+
2	1.300	0.740	UNIV. CHEM. IND.	11.8	8.11	3	3100	3774	.74	.74	-
1	1.060	0.500	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	9	0.00	9	5842	3236	.55	.56	0.01+
2	1.600	1.200	RAIL. CHAIRS	8.6	8.20	2	275	335	1.22	1.22	-
1	1.080	0.740	JOR. BIRD CHAIRS	10.4	12.01	4	2500	1850	.74	.74	-
1	1.610	1.150	EL. RAIL READY WEAR	41.2	0.00	2	550	641	1.17	1.17	-
2	1.890	0.660	JORDAN STEEL	9.6	0.14	6	246	2121	.06	.06	-
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 98.48	CHNG: +1.28	326	131042	263574				
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 179.29	CHNG: +0.31	346	224138	626003				
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 04/08/1998											
2	1.020	0.880	EXPORT & FTR. INV. 75P	16.7	0.00	1	200	130	.90	.90	-
1	1.140	1.010	ZARA FOR INVESTMENT	67.6	0.00	5	5800	6030	1.04	1.03	-0.01
2	1.800	0.810	UNION INV.	11.62	0.00	4	1162	568	.51	.51	-
2	1.520	0.280	ARAB FTR. INVEST.	9	0.00	10	67950	25506	.10	.09	-0.01
2	2.120	1.090	CERTIFY INV. GROUP	9	0.00	1	1000	6300	1.24	1.26	0.02+
2	1.800	0.850	ARAB JOR. INVEST. CO.	14.5	5.68	1	250	213	.90	.85	-0.05
2	1.270	0.400	JOR. INDUS. MANF. HDQ.	9	0.00	2	300	330	.12	.11	-0.01
2	1.430	0.240	ARAB TEL. INV. HDQ.	29.9	0.00	12	8000	2123	.27	.26	-0.01
2	1.450	0.250	WATZ. TEXTILE	9	0.00	2	500	120	.25	.24	-0.01
2	1.800	0.360	KATZ. HILL. INV. MANCO	9	0.00	15	23570	8866	.38	.37	-0.01
2	1.490	0.580	HILFANT PAPER. 50P	9	0.00	2	10000	3300	.63	.63	-
1	1.750	0.550	UNION TUBACCO 87.5P	10.3	7.72	1	900	1346	1.63	1.62	-0.01
2	1.730	0.370	RAIL. PAPER.	9	0.00	2	1200	686	.58	.58	-
2	1.350	0.230	IND. INV.	9	0.00	1	1000	230	.23	.23	-
2	1.950	0.550	ADVANCED PHARM. IND.	9	0.00	5	2800	1652	.59	.59	-
2	1.760	0.580	RAV. ALUMINIUM	33.7	0.00	17	11950	9518	.69	.68	-0.01
2	1.170	0.480	SURKADIA	9	0.00	1	100	87	.86	.87	0.01+
2	1.050	0.710	AL-KHAYAL PRINTING CO	11.0	10.52	4	3500	2520	.72	.72	-
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 179.29	CHNG: +0.31	346	224138	626003				
95 178882 76667											
+ New 12 months low + Stock dividend during the past 12 months + Listed during the past 12 months P P/E ratio is 100 or more - Negative P/E E Earnings is zero or W/A for the most recent year											

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1998

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Fun and games compete with the good, old-fashioned work ethic today. You can do both at the same time. If you figure out how to make your job fun, you'll inspire everyone to do the same. You'll all be amazed at your productivity.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) This is a lucky day for you. Conditions are combining to give you a slight advantage, which is always helpful this time of year. You may feel like you don't get heard as well as you'd like. Today you have a couple friends on your side, so your voice will be a little louder. Go ahead and speak up.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) It's a very creative period and you're coming up with great ideas. But, as you know, there's a gap between the idea and the actual physical product. That's the gap you'll be bridging right now, with the help of friends and your hard work. The opportunity is there, but you have to make something of it, so get busy.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 21) You're in the spotlight today and you're not all that comfortable with the attention. Some of it could be kind of critical, but don't become a doormat. Fight back by letting them know your position in the matter. Go ahead and be assertive. It's necessary this time and won't hurt anybody's feelings too badly. Tell it like it is.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You're in the spotlight again. You might as well get used to it. Actually, you kind of like it. Leo is the sign of the entertainer and you could put on a pretty good show. You don't really want to have them notice something that needs to be done over, however. Better get busy right away.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Today looks good for romance, but there are too many other things going on. You and your sweetheart may have to just wave to each other in passing. The flurry of activity this time goes on well into the night, so enjoy the brief moments you get to spend together, or whatever else you can manage to accomplish.

LIB

FIFA, UEFA could be 'powerless' to stop Euro breakaway

LONDON (AFP) — Football's governing bodies are unlikely to have any legal powers to stop a proposed Super League breakaway by Europe's most powerful clubs, according to English legal experts.

Further meetings were reported to have taken place in London on Monday as a conglomerate of business, financial and legal interests continue their attempt to establish an independent Super League by 2000.

England's Manchester United, Arsenal and Liverpool are said to have been approached to join a 32-team league split into two divisions, with a guaranteed income of at least 20 million pounds and possibly without any promotion and relegation.

FIFA and UEFA, the world and European governing bodies respectively, are worried by the proposal and they have warned that clubs and players involved in a breakaway could find themselves with a lifetime ban from recognised competitions and international matches.

But English experts in both sports law and European competition law believe that the governing bodies may well discover that they are virtually powerless to carry out any threats and to stop the clubs from breaking away.

While the Premier League still has the potential to take strong action — including expulsion — against any club that breaks their rule book, UEFA may find themselves forced to compromise by conceding more financial power to top sides.

European Commission officials are

reportedly due to meet organisers of the breakaway group on September 7 to make their views known.

Ken Foster, a lecturer in sports law at Warwick University, believes that UEFA may well be viewed by the Commission as a cartel seeking to abuse a monopoly position if they effectively tried to put a rival organisation out of business.

He said: "That would make anything UEFA did potentially fall foul of European competition law."

"It is obviously up to them to decide who competes in their competitions to a certain extent, but I can't believe that they would be allowed to simply hand out lifetime bans, especially to individual players."

"If the Football Association also tried to implement a similar ruling by FIFA then they could face being taken to court for restraint of trade."

Nothing is certain until a final ruling, possibly by the European courts, which would have even bigger implications than the Bosman ruling.

But Foster believes that the European Union's director-general of competitions, Karel van Miert, is keen to see football treated like any other business, as it was in the Bosman case on players' right to free movement.

Professor Tony Downes, a European competition law expert at Reading University, said: "It's in UEFA's interests to stop being quite so negative in trying to take action against the clubs."

"A major fight on this issue is, in the long-term, unlikely to be beneficial to anybody."

The pressure is, therefore, growing on UEFA to choose to make changes to existing competitions that meet with the approval of the clubs who want more financial muscle and security.

This pressure will also be applied by the Premier League, who have received written assurances from United, Arsenal and Liverpool that they will not break away without prior consultation.

The three clubs will undoubtedly come under some pressure to explain themselves at the next scheduled meeting of the Premiership's 20 clubs on September 3.

But as long as the three clubs only talk and do not break the rule book by taking action, the Premier League will not take the strong line that could preclude simultaneous membership of both a Super League and the Premiership.

Premier League spokesman Mike Lee said: "Clearly, if assurances which have been given were to be broken, then further action is likely to be taken."

"This is ultimately a matter for all 20 clubs to decide on together, and our clubs have pledged to work together to take forward a discussion on the future shape of European club competitions."

"The regular meeting of clubs in September will discuss this issue and we will look then at any further representation we may need to make to UEFA."

Owen 'as good as' Ronaldo

LIVERPOOL (AFP) — England's teenage sensation Michael Owen is as good as Brazilian superstar Ronaldo, the World's No. 1 footballer, according to Liverpool skipper Paul Ince.

Liverpool play Inter Milan at Anfield on Tuesday night but sadly for the 40,000 plus fans, Ronaldo will not be there to face England's new idol.

But England midfielder Ince said: "Michael has a long way to go but he's so good. People forget that Ronaldo is only 21 and they say he is the greatest in the world."

"But as far as I'm concerned, Michael is up there with him. They are different kinds of strikers but both very good indeed."

"It's a shame Ronaldo won't be playing but I'm sure the crowd will not mind too much because they will have Michael to welcome home."

Ronaldo is still on his holidays and Inter Milan will field a virtual shadow squad for the prestige friendly with six of their superstars being left behind.



Canada's forward Greg Newton scores against Puerto Rico during their second round match of the World Basketball Championship in the Peace and Friendship in Piraeus Stadium (Reuters photo)

Basketball World Championships Italy upset Yugoslavia; Lithuania reach quarterfinals

ATHENS (AP) — This much is certain: Senegal, Japan, South Korea and Nigeria — eliminated in the consolation round — won't win the World Basketball Championship. Otherwise, 10 teams still have a chance to reach Friday's quarterfinals.

Yugoslavia — regarded as the favorite — fell Monday to Italy 61-60 as the Italians avenged a last year's loss in the final of the European championship to the Yugoslavs.

And they were undone by two of their own from the former Yugoslavia — Bosnian-born Bodjan Tanjevic, the Italian coach, and Slovenian-born Gregor Fucka, who hit the winning shot.

However, Yugoslavia (4-1) along with Lithuania, Greece, Spain, Russia and the United States are assured of reaching Friday's quarterfinals with only two more places up for grabs.

The United States handed Spain its first loss and Russia did the same to the host Greeks.

The Americans (4-1), with 17 from Jimmy Oliver and 12 from Brad Miller, rallied to beat Spain 75-73 after trailing by 11 at halftime. Alberto Herreros led Spain with 27.

Russia (4-1) demolished the host Greeks 60-48 as Sergei Bnbkov hit 18, one of four in double figures. Greece was led by Frigiskos Albertis with 12 points.

It was a memorable win for Italy — its first over Yugoslavia in a major tournament since the 1984 Olympics, when they won 74-61.

Italy (3-2) can thank Fucka for the victory as he

led the winners with 16 points and hit the two clinching free throws to put Italy ahead for the final time.

"It was a hard gamble on the part of the Yugoslavs who thought Fucka would not be cool enough, but this type of thing you run the risk of missing your bet," Italian coach Tanjevic said.

"Our victory will not mean anything unless we beat Puerto Rico tomorrow and go to the quarterfinal," he added.

The Italians, who forced the usually tidy Yugoslavs into 21 turnovers, will face Puerto Rico on Tuesday with a quarterfinal berth on the line.

"Of course it (the loss) is bad but it's not a disaster. It's not the end of the tournament," said Yugoslav forward Dejan Bodogica.

Lithuania, bronze medalists in the last two Olympics, booked its place in the Friday quarterfinals with a second-round victory over Argentina 84-75.

The top four teams from each qualifying group advance. Lithuania (4-1) led Argentina (2-3) 41-33 at halftime and then pulled away. Salutis Stombergas had 19 with 14 from Darius Lukminas. The team's top

scorer in the tournament — Arturas Karnisovas — had 11.

"Because they paid so much attention to me, I had to distribute the ball instead of shooting it," the former Seton Hall star said. "We kept going to Stombergas because they couldn't stop him one on one. He was too quick."

Argentina had two foul out Alejandro Montecchia and Juan Ignacio Sanchez — and was topped by Juan Alberto Espil with 18.

Australia (3-2) improved its chances of reaching the quarterfinals with a 75-63 come-from-behind victory over Brazil (1-4) and will face the United States on Tuesday in their final qualification-round game.

Puerto Rico (2-3) also stayed alive for a quarterfinal berth with a 94-81 victory over Canada (1-4).

The last two places are still up for grabs with Italy, Argentina, Puerto Rico and Australia in the running.

In games to determine 13th to 16th place, Nigeria claimed 13th with a 70-60 victory over Japan. Senegal finished 15th, beating South Korea 75-72.

World Basketball Championship scores

13th place game			
Nigeria	70	Japan	60
15th place game			
Senegal	75	South Korea	72
Second Round			
Lithuania	84	Argentina	75
Puerto Rico	94	Canada	81
Australia	75	Brazil	63
Italy	61	Yugoslavia	60
United States	75	Spain	73
Russia	60	Greece	48



Sandrine Testud, of France, hits a two-handed backhand shot during her first round match against Alexandra Stevenson, of San Diego, at the Toshiba Tennis Classic in Carlsbad, CA. (AP photo)

Testud survives 1st-round scare

SAN DIEGO (AFP) — Sandrine Testud survived an opening day scare to advance into the second round of the WTA Tour women's tennis tournament here Monday.

The Frenchwoman, ranked 13, rallied to beat 151st ranked American amateur Alexandra Stevenson 4-6, 6-2, 6-0.

There were also victories for Iva Majoli of Croatia, who overcame Alexandra Fusai of France 7-6 (7/1), 6-3, and Mary Pierce, also of France, who beat Austria's Barbara Paulus 6-3, 7-5.

American Lisa Raymond advanced when Elena Likhovtseva of Russia retired with a left thigh strain as Raymond led 6-2, 5-1.

Stevenson, just 17, showed maturity beyond her years as she threatened to overturn the struggling Testud. She attacked well with both forehand and backhand, and after claiming the first set held break points in Testud's

first two service games of the second set.

But the young American was unable to maintain her challenge, and after conceding the final 10 points of the second set she earned just one point in the first two games of the third.

"I started going downhill and tried to get out of it, but I couldn't," said Stevenson. "It's all part of the learning process I guess, and I learned that I have to keep up my intensity. But I also learned that I can play with these girls."

Testud admitted she was a little slow as she played her first match since arriving from Europe.

"The first match is never easy, and she's a strong player," said Testud. "I wasn't moving well at the beginning, but in the second and third sets I mixed up my serve a little more, and she started making a lot of mistakes."

Fusai served for the first

set against Majoli at 5-4, but the former French Open champion survived the crisis, dropped just one point in the tiebreak and then claimed victory as Fusai struck three of her nine double-faults in the final game.

Top seed Martina Hingis faces a formidable challenge in retaining her title. She must overcome either Wimbledon semi-finalist Natasha Zvereva or Croatian star Mirjana Lucic as early as the second round as she bids to reach a possible final against last week's Stanford champion Lindsay Davenport.

Hingis also faces a possible clash with former French Open champion Iva Majoli, as well as Australian Open finalist Conchita Martinez or the formidable Venus Williams. Steffi Graf could face Monica Seles in the quarter-finals, in only their third meeting since Seles was stabbed by a Graf fan in April 1993.

2001 World Swimming Championships to be held at 50m temporary pool

TOKYO (AFP) — The 2001 World Swimming Championships in Fukuoka in western Japan will be held at a 50-metre temporary pool for the first time in the world, the organisers said Tuesday.

The aim is to meet the requirements for the championships and at the same time avoid having to spend large amounts of money on facilities that may only be used once. "Cities must have a pool with more than 10,000 seats to stage the world championships, Yokohama spent some 30 billion yen (\$207 million)" on their facilities, said Fukuoka city official Tetsuo Yoshimura.

"But we estimate the cost at less than 100 or 200 million yen for the temporary pool. We cannot spend too much money for a facility that we use only once. If we can make a big success of it, it gives chances to any Asian countries to stage the world championships," Yoshimura said.

Fukuoka, the host of the 1995 Summer Student Games and the Pan Pacific swimming championships last season, will be the first city in Asia to stage the world championships.

Yoshimura said the organisers got an idea to make a 50m temporary pool for the first time in the world after watching the world short course championships in Rio de Janeiro in 1995.

In Rio, they made a 25m temporary pool on beach volleyball courts on the seashore. The organising committee, which was formed and announced Tuesday headed by the Japan Olympic Committee president Hiroshi Furukawa, plans to carpet the concrete floor of Marine Messe Fukuoka with 20-centimetre tiles and cover it with iron plates.

The fences of the pool will be covered with fortified aluminium plates.

Marine Messe Fukuoka has a capacity of 10,000 seats and is wide enough to have two jumbo jet planes in it. Fukuoka defeated the 1992 Spanish Olympic city of Barcelona for the right to stage the championships because of the temporary pool. The event also includes diving, synchronised swimming, water polo and open water swimming.

"We are going to show any countries in the world can host the championships if they use a temporary pool," said Furukawa, also the president of the Japan Amateur Swimming Federation.

MLB RESULTS

National League		American League	
San Francisco	6	Philadelphia	1
Montreal	6	San Diego	1
Florida	11	Houston	3
Colorado	7	Pittsburgh	2
Los Angeles	8	NY Mets	5
Arizona	6	Chicago Cubs	5
Milwaukee	6	St. Louis	5
American League		National League	
White Sox	6	Texas Ray	7
Anchorage	11	Cleveland	1
NY Yankees	14	Oakland	1
Seattle	3	Boston	1

PHILADELPHIA 1'	PHILADELPHIA 2'	PLAZA	CONCORD	GALLERIA 1	GALLERIA 2	Hisman Yares Theatre
Leonardo DiCaprio...in THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30	Comedian Adel Imam...in AL ZA'EEM Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 Additional shows Thursday and Friday evenings at 12:30	Comedian Adel Imam...in AL ZA'EEM Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 Additional shows Thursday and Friday evenings at 12:30	Adel Imam & Yusra...in A LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 DRACULA Shows: 3:30 only	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Gallery Comedian Adel Imam...in AL ZA'EEM Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 Additional shows Thursday and Friday evenings at 12:30	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Gallery Comedian Adel Imam...in AL ZA'EEM Shows: 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30 Additional shows Thursday and Friday evenings at 12:30	The Authority in the Service of the People Starring Hisham Yares and the group TEL: 4625155 STARTING JULY 13TH For reservations call: 460155, 4625155

Washington advances in Toronto

TORONTO (AP) — The Washington Capitals advanced to the second round of the Stanley Cup playoffs by defeating the Toronto Maple Leafs 4-1 on Monday night. The Capitals' Bobby Kocak scored the winning goal in the third period. The Capitals' Steve Campbell scored the first goal in the first period. The Capitals' Jeff O'Leary scored the second goal in the second period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the fourth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the fifth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the sixth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the seventh goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the eighth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the ninth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the tenth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the eleventh goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the twelfth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the thirteenth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the fourteenth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the fifteenth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the sixteenth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the seventeenth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the eighteenth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the nineteenth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the twentieth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the twenty-first goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the twenty-second goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the twenty-third goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the twenty-fourth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the twenty-fifth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the twenty-sixth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the twenty-seventh goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the twenty-eighth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the twenty-ninth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the thirtieth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the thirty-first goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the thirty-second goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the thirty-third goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the thirty-fourth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the thirty-fifth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the thirty-sixth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the thirty-seventh goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the thirty-eighth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the thirty-ninth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the fortieth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the forty-first goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the forty-second goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the forty-third goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the forty-fourth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the forty-fifth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the forty-sixth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the forty-seventh goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the forty-eighth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the forty-ninth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the fiftieth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the fifty-first goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the fifty-second goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the fifty-third goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the fifty-fourth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the fifty-fifth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the fifty-sixth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the fifty-seventh goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the fifty-eighth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the fifty-ninth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the sixtieth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the sixty-first goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the sixty-second goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the sixty-third goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the sixty-fourth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the sixty-fifth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the sixty-sixth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the sixty-seventh goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the sixty-eighth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the sixty-ninth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the seventieth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the seventy-first goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the seventy-second goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the seventy-third goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the seventy-fourth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the seventy-fifth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the seventy-sixth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the seventy-seventh goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the seventy-eighth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the seventy-ninth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the eightieth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the eighty-first goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the eighty-second goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the eighty-third goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the eighty-fourth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the eighty-fifth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the eighty-sixth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the eighty-seventh goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the eighty-eighth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the eighty-ninth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the ninetieth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the ninety-first goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the ninety-second goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the ninety-third goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the ninety-fourth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the ninety-fifth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the ninety-sixth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the ninety-seventh goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the ninety-eighth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the ninety-ninth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundredth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-first goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-second goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-third goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-fourth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-fifth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-sixth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-seventh goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-eighth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-ninth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-tenth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-eleventh goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-twelfth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-thirteenth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-fourteenth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-fifteenth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-sixteenth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-seventeenth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-eighteenth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-nineteenth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-twentieth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-twenty-first goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-twenty-second goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-twenty-third goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-twenty-fourth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-twenty-fifth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-twenty-sixth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-twenty-seventh goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-twenty-eighth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-twenty-ninth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-thirtieth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-thirty-first goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-thirty-second goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-thirty-third goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-thirty-fourth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-thirty-fifth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-thirty-sixth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-thirty-seventh goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-thirty-eighth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-thirty-ninth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-fortieth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-forty-first goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-forty-second goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-forty-third goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-forty-fourth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-forty-fifth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-forty-sixth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-forty-seventh goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-forty-eighth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-forty-ninth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-fiftyth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-fifty-first goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-fifty-second goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-fifty-third goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-fifty-fourth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-fifty-fifth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-fifty-sixth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-fifty-seventh goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-fifty-eighth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-fifty-ninth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-sixtieth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-sixty-first goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-sixty-second goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-sixty-third goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-sixty-fourth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-sixty-fifth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-sixty-sixth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-sixty-seventh goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-sixty-eighth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-sixty-ninth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-seventieth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-seventy-first goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-seventy-second goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-seventy-third goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-seventy-fourth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-seventy-fifth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-seventy-sixth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-seventy-seventh goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-seventy-eighth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-seventy-ninth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-eightieth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-eighty-first goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-eighty-second goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-eighty-third goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-eighty-fourth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-eighty-fifth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-eighty-sixth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-eighty-seventh goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-eighty-eighth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-eighty-ninth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-ninetyth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-ninety-first goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-ninety-second goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-ninety-third goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-ninety-fourth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-ninety-fifth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-ninety-sixth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-ninety-seventh goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-ninety-eighth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-ninety-ninth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-hundredth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-hundred-first goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-hundred-second goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-hundred-third goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-hundred-fourth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-hundred-fifth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-hundred-sixth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-hundred-seventh goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-hundred-eighth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-hundred-ninth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-hundred-tenth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-hundred-twelfth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-hundred-thirteenth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-hundred-fourteenth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-hundred-fifteenth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-hundred-sixteenth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-hundred-seventeenth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-hundred-eighteenth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-hundred-nineteenth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-hundred-twentieth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-hundred-twenty-first goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-hundred-twenty-second goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-hundred-twenty-third goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-hundred-twenty-fourth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-hundred-twenty-fifth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-hundred-twenty-sixth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-hundred-twenty-seventh goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-hundred-twenty-eighth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-hundred-twenty-ninth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-hundred-thirtieth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-hundred-thirty-first goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-hundred-thirty-second goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-hundred-thirty-third goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-hundred-thirty-fourth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-hundred-thirty-fifth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-hundred-thirty-sixth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-hundred-thirty-seventh goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-hundred-thirty-eighth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-hundred-thirty-ninth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-hundred-fortieth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-hundred-forty-first goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-hundred-forty-second goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-hundred-forty-third goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-hundred-forty-fourth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-hundred-forty-fifth goal in the third period. The Capitals' Campbell scored the hundred-hundred-forty-sixth goal in the third period. The Capitals' O'Leary scored the hundred-hundred-forty-seventh goal in the third period. The Capitals' Kocak scored the hundred-hundred-forty-eighth goal in the third period. The

Washington advances in Toronto

TORONTO (AP) — MaliVai Washington defeated No. 13 seed Jan Siemerink of the Netherlands 7-6 (7-2), 6-3 on Monday to advance to the second round of the \$2.4 million Du Maurier Open.

Washington next faces Canada's Bobby Kokavec, who downed Steve Campbell 6-1, 6-2 for his first match victory on the ATP Tour.

"MaliVai is obviously playing well," Kokavec said. "I'm just going to go after my shots and not change anything."

Kokavec, honoured Monday as Canada's most improved tennis player, is ranked No. 347 in the world.

"For me, ranking is just a number," Kokavec said. "I feel like anyone in the top 500 can beat anyone if they play good because anybody can have a bad day."

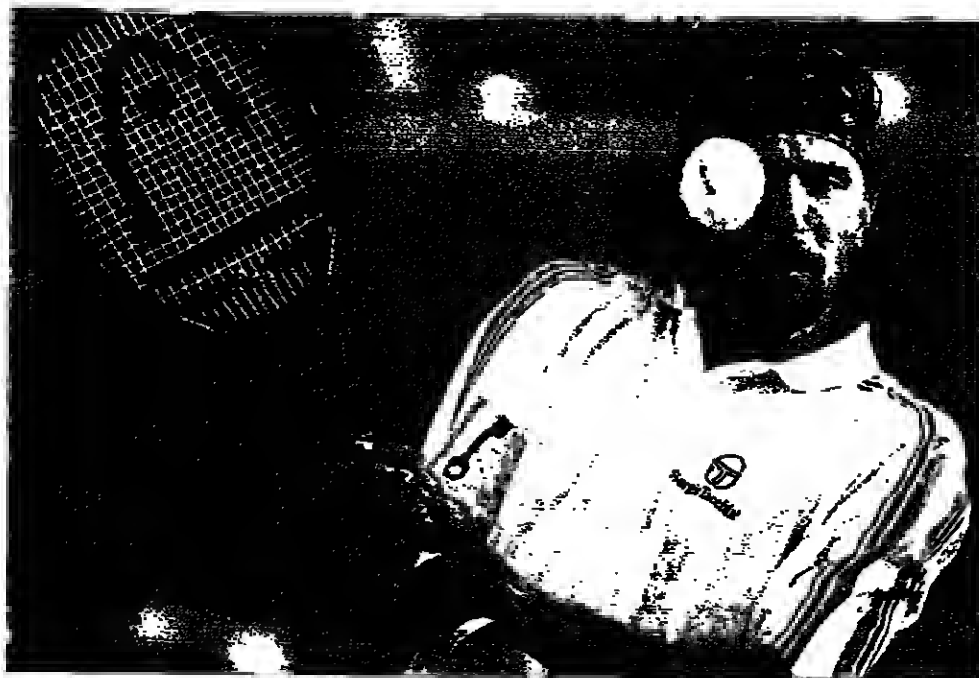
In other early matches, Australia's Scott Draper defeated Jim Courier 7-5, 5-7, 6-4 and Wayne Black of Zimbabwe beat older brother Byron 6-4, 6-0.

In a night match, Canada's Sebastian Larean was beaten 7-6 (14-12), 7-6 (7-4) by 10th-seeded Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia.

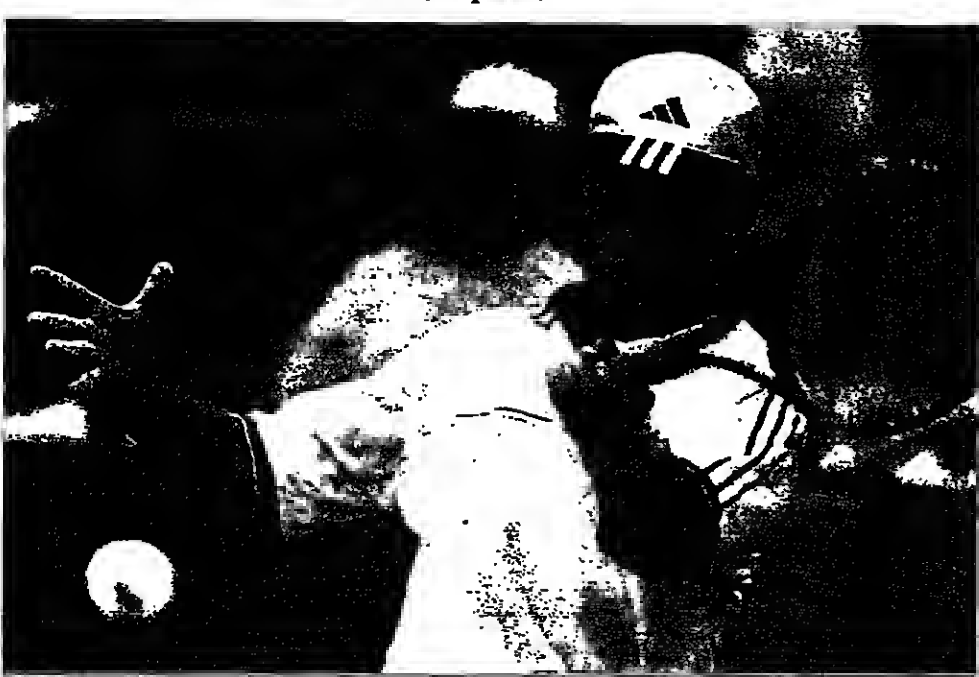
"I served good in the tiebreakers," Ivanisevic said. "Usually in tiebreaks the advantage goes to the guy who is serving better and bigger and in this case that was me."

"In the second tiebreak, I made some good returns and I was never scared that I could lose the match."

Also, Vince Spadea



Croatian Goran Ivanisevic lines up the ball from his opponent Canadian Sebastian Larean during qualifying rounds at the du Maurier Tennis Open in Toronto. Ivanisevic defeated Larean 7-6 7-6 (AP photo)



Australian Scott Draper backhands the ball to his opponent Jim Courier during qualifying round at the du Maurier Tennis Open in Toronto. Draper defeated Courier 7-5, 5-7, 6-4 (AP photo)

downed Australia's Andrew Ilie 6-3, 6-0; Argentina's Guillermo Canada beat South Africa's Grant Stafford 2-6, 7-6 (15-13), 6-2; South Africa's Neville Godwin topped Cecil Mamiit 6-4, 1-6, 6-4; and South Africa's David Nankin took Italy's Laurence Tieleman 6-1, 3-6, 7-5.

Wayne Black of Zimbabwe beat older brother Byron 6-4, 6-0; Australian Scott Draper

Asian Under-16 qualifiers Bahrain beat Jordan 5-1

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

JORDAN'S NATIONAL Under-16 soccer team Tuesday lost 5-1 to its Bahraini counterpart in their 8th Asian Junior Championships qualifiers currently under way in Ha'el, Saudi Arabia.

Group 3 matches continue Wednesday when the Saudis meet Bahrain while Jordan plays the hosts Friday. Only one team will qualify from the group.

The competing teams have been divided into 9 groups from which the top team will qualify and join hosts Qatar for the 10-team finals in Doha starting Sept. 3.

According to Jordan Football Association official Bassam Haroun, Jordan's group initially included Kyrgyzstan who pulled out last month leaving only three teams.

In their only other junior team participation in Asian events Jordan had taken part in the Under-17 championship grouping Qatar and Saudi Arabia but failed to get past the preliminary round.

Last week Jordan's national team qualified to the finals of the Arab Cup which will be held in Qatar Sept. 22-30.

Jordan drew 1-1 with Palestine, lost to Syria 3-0 and beat hosts Lebanon 2-0 to qualify after below average play.

They will join Syria, Lebanon, Qatar, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Morocco, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and two other qualifiers in the finals.

Local competitions have meanwhile resumed with the Premier League returning to action Aug. 9 and the Jordan Cup final scheduled for Aug. 7.

ITF rips Nebiolo over doping allegations

LONDON (AP) — In the latest doping dispute between world sports administrators, the International Tennis Federation (ITF) has attacked track and field boss Primo Nebiolo for making "uninformed" and "groundless" accusations about drug-testing in tennis.

International Tennis Federation president Brian Tobin sent a bluntly worded letter to Nebiolo, president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, rejecting the Italian's criticism of tennis' doping control programmes.

"I must ask you to desist from making these uninformed and groundless ad-hoc statements about the federation's activities and the game of tennis gener-

ally and I require the courtesy of an acknowledgment of this request," Tobin said in his letter, which was published in the ITF's weekly bulletin Tuesday.

In a statement released last week in the wake of the doping scandals which tarnished the Tour de France, Nebiolo singled out tennis, volleyball and cycling as sports which had refused to sign an Olympic accord for harmonising anti-drug programmes.

Tobin said he had previously written to Nebiolo in December 1997 explaining the ITF's anti-doping program and never received a reply.

Tobin said the ITF carries out more than 1,000 tests a year in an anti-drug

program approved by the International Olympic Committee and in cooperation with the ATP and WTA tours.

"We are proud of the fact that our testing program, although comprehensive, has revealed only isolated positive results," Tobin said. "I might add that we have never suffered a positive test at an Olympic Games — a record, I am sure, that some other Olympic sports would envy."

Last week, International Volleyball Federation President Ruben Acosta accused Nebiolo of making "totally false" allegations about drug-testing in volleyball and said Nebiolo should concentrate on fighting "systematic doping" in track and field.

Hingis WTA's No. 1

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Latest WTA rankings:

1. Martina Hingis (Swi) 5218 pts
2. Lindsay Davenport (USA) 4666
3. Jana Novotna (Cze) 4615
4. Arantxa Sanchez (Spa) 3264
5. Venus Williams (USA) 3098
6. Monica Seles (USA) 2838
7. Conchita Martinez (Spa) 2457
8. Amanda Coetzer (Rsa) 2137
9. Nathalie Tauziat (Fra) 2133
10. Irina Spirlea (Rom) 2133
11. Patty Schnyder (Swi) 2107
12. Dominique Van Roost (Bel) 1997
13. Sandrine Testud (Fra) 1776
14. Anna Kournikova (Rus) 1682
15. Natasha Zvereva (Blr) 1662
16. Mary Pierce (Fra) 1633
17. Ai Sugiyama (Jpn) 1567
18. Anke Huber (Ger) 1530
19. Lisa Raymond (USA) 1455
20. Iva Majoli (Cro) 1375



World No. 4 Carlos Moya

Sampras still tops ATP Tour rankings

PARIS (AFP) — Latest ATP Tour rankings released on Monday:

1. Pete Sampras (USA) 3825
2. Marcelo Rios (Chi) 3719
3. Petr Korda (Cze) 3195
4. Carlos Moya (Spa) 2902
5. Patrick Rafter (Aus) 2878
6. Greg Rusedski (Gbr) 2706
7. Jonas Bjorkman (Swe) 2563
8. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Rus) 2442
9. Richard Krajicek (Ned) 2368
10. Alex Corretja (Spa) 2302
11. Andre Agassi (USA) 2209
12. Tim Henman (Gbr) 2163
13. Albert Costa (Spa) 2128
14. Karol Kucera (Svk) 2127
15. Alberto Berasategui (Spa) 1900
16. Goran Ivanisevic (Cro) 1803
17. Felix Mantilla (Spa) 1776
18. Thomas Enqvist (Swe) 1737
19. Cedric Pioline (Fra) 1712
20. Michael Chang (USA) 1663
21. Thomas Muster (Aut) 1662
22. Jan Siemerink (Ned) 1574
23. Magnus Gustafsson (Swe) 1463
24. Gustavo Kuerten (Bra) 1369
25. Mark Philippoussis (Aus) 1365
26. Francisco Claver (Spa) 1297
27. Wayne Ferreira (Rsa) 1286
28. Nicolas Pietrangeli (Ger) 1280
29. Fabrice Santoro (Fra) 1200
30. Todd Martin (USA) 1175



World No. 2 Lindsay Davenport

Ben Johnson alleges drugs conspiracy

LONDON (AFP) — Disgraced Canadian Olympic sprint champion Ben Johnson has claimed top athletes only agreed to compete at major meetings if they were not subjected to drug tests.

The 36-year-old 100m ace, who has twice been banned for using illegal stimulants, was speaking in the wake of American rival Dennis Mitchell's recent positive test.

Mitchell was upgraded to fourth place after Johnson's infamous disqualification after winning the 100m at the 1988 Seoul Games, where he became the first man in history to run under 9.8 seconds.

Johnson has been ridiculed constantly since his day of shame but is now battling through the courts for the right to race again, claiming a second positive test in 1993 was part of a wider conspiracy.

"If I'd never used anything, come to it natural, I would say my fastest possible 100m was 10 seconds flat," he said.

"But Ben Johnson was not the only one doing it. Athletes or their managers would say to promoters, 'I'm not coming to your meeting if I'm tested'. That was the deal."

"I was tested at some meetings but not at others and I didn't realise why."

"Someone was out to get Ben Johnson and succeeded," he told the Daily Mail.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Gullit might coach Nigeria

LAGOS (AFP) — Former Chelsea manager Ruud Gullit is on a list of 16 possible successors to Bora Milutinovic as coach of the Nigerian national team, the Nigerian Football Association said Tuesday. A three-man team from the Federation has just returned to Nigeria after a tour of Europe in search of a new coach for the side that sparked early on at France 98 but flopped against Denmark in the second round. Dutch coaches dominate those in the running for the job. Others on the list include former Celtic manager Wim Jansen, Thijs Libregts, Aad de Mos, Frank Rijkaard, Wim Rijsbergen, Ronald Spelbos and Rudi Krol, as well as Germany's former Real Madrid coach Jupp Heynckes. Nigeria is widely considered Africa's strongest footballing nation, but has in the past been hampered by the poor organisation of the domestic league. Most of its top players play abroad, many in Europe.

Villa target Juninho

BIRMINGHAM (AFP) — Brazilian international midfielder Juninho has snubbed Aston Villa, who had been hoping to entice him back to the English Premiership. Juninho said it is "not the right moment" to consider such a move. Aston Villa manager John Gregory was to send a scout to watch Juninho play for Atletico Madrid in a friendly match against Chelsea in Arnhem, Holland, on Tuesday night. But Juninho, who joined Atletico from Middlesbrough in an £11 million deal last summer, insisted Tuesday that he is staying put. "I don't think this is the right moment in my career to return to the Premiership," said the 25-year-old. "People doubted that I'd be able to play in England when I went to Middlesbrough but I've proved I can play in the Premiership now. I wouldn't gain anything by going back," he told the Daily Mail. Atletico manager Arrigo Sacchi said of Villa's interest: "I've not heard anything about Villa's offer but it doesn't matter. He's not going anywhere."

Spain's women miss Tour de France

MADRID (AFP) — Spanish cyclists will boycott the women's Tour de France race in protest at the events surrounding the drug-tainted men's race, the Spanish Cycling Federation announced Tuesday. The women's Tour de France is scheduled to be held from Aug. 11-20. The Spanish federation said in a statement that the boycott was in response to "serious incidents" during the men's race, which ended in Paris on Sunday. The federation said Spanish riders were treated "without dignity" as French police investigated the use of illegal drugs in the race. All the Spanish teams in the race withdrew in protest against the way the ONCE team was treated by French police during the inquiry. The Festina team was kicked out of the Tour and several of its riders subsequently admitted drug use, while six other teams pulled out of the race in protest. They included the Spanish teams: ONCE, Banesto, Kelme and Vitalicio Seguros.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH

WHERE'S THAT TRUMP?

Neither vulnerable. South deals.			
NORTH			
AK75			
10643			
82			
4375			
WEST			
4310			
885			
40307			
AK942			
AK942			
SOUTH			
Q985			
VA77			
AK1064			
46			
The bidding:			
NORTH WEST EAST			
20 Pass 17 Pass			
14 Pass 24 Pass			
30 Pass 44 Pass			
Pass Pass			

Opening lead: Jack of 4

Taking a look at all four hands, it is difficult to see how four spades can be defeated. But a brilliant deceptive play by East, who is unknown to us, led declarer down the path to destruction.

South's bidding showed a hand with 4-5-6-1 distribution and inva-

FOR RENT

FURNISHED APARTMENT IN ABDOUN
Consists of 3 bedrooms, 2 toilets, kitchen, balcony, guest dining, living rooms. Modern furniture, satellite, telephone, lift in the building and garage.
Rent: Annual JD5,000
Tel.: 5850541, Mobile 079/56602

MERCEDES 230G

DUTY UNPAID
4 WHEEL DRIVE, CROSS-COUNTRY TYPE,
LONG WHEEL BASE, 7-9 PASSENGERS,
5 DOORS, A/C, VERY GOOD CONDITION.
JD5,600/U.S.\$ 8,000
TEL.: 5603050 - FAX: 5603047

For Immediate Sale

House furniture, electrical appliances, kitchenware, fax machines & toys. Everything must go.
Please call: 079-98694.
Wednesday through Friday 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

TWO APARTMENTS FOR RENT

1) In Deir Ghbar. Consists of 3 bedrooms, living, dining, guest rooms, equipped kitchen, maid's room, big terrace and 4 toilets.
2) Beside Royal Automobile Club. Consists of 3 bedrooms, living, dining, guest rooms, equipped kitchen, 3 toilets, big balcony.
Tel.: 5815107, Mobile 079/29439

Congress cuts IAEA funds by amount spent on Iran projects

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. House of Representatives voted Monday to cut America's voluntary contributions to the International Atomic Energy Agency by the amount the agency spends on nuclear energy projects in Iran.

The measure, which passed 405-13, also directs the secretary of state to annually review the IAEA's programmes to ensure they are in line with U.S. nuclear non-proliferation policies.

Supporters pointed in particular to IAEA assistance to Iran in its construction of the Bushehr nuclear power plant. The agency works to ensure the safety of power plants.

"It is ludicrous for the United States to support in any way a plant even indirectly which could pose a threat to the United States and to stability in the Middle East," said Rep. Robert Menendez, the chief sponsor.

Rep. Ben Gilman, chairman of the House International Relations Committee, said the IAEA has spent \$1.5 million since 1995 to assist Iran's nuclear energy programme. He said Iran plans to have three nuclear plants operating by

2015, a step the United States opposes because of concerns that it would parallel promotion of Iran's nuclear weapons programme.

The ranking Democrat on the international relations panel, Rep. Lee Hamilton, opposed the measure, saying it would "make the IAEA less effective in meeting its responsibilities for international safety and security."

"This bill is not going to stop, it is not going to slow, Iran's civilian nuclear power reactor programme," he said. "It will not make Iran's nuclear facilities any

safer, it will not prevent the troublesome Bushier facilities from being developed."

The bill has yet to be considered by the Senate. The House also approved, 407-6, a resolution finding Iraq "in material and unacceptable breach" of its international obligations as outlined by the U.N. Security Council after the 1991 Gulf war.

Mr. Gilman said the non-binding resolution was in response to "the mounting evidence that Iraq continues to defy the decisions of the U.N. Security Council with regard to its weapons of mass destruction."

Iran to build multipurpose satellite with Asian help

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran will acquire the necessary technology to manufacture multipurpose satellites under a cooperation agreement with five Asian countries, Tehran Radio said Tuesday.

Representatives from China, Iran, Mongolia, Pakistan, South Korea and Thailand, were negotiating in Tehran Tuesday the "technical and financial

terms for the project to launch a satellite in 2001, which is estimated to cost \$20 million, the radio said.

The goal of the meeting, the representatives' second to discuss the small multipurpose satellite, is "to lay out how to implement their agreement and each country's financial contribution," Iran's deputy minister for telecommunications, Mohammad Tabeshian,

said. "Iran will spend three to four million dollars on the project," Mr. Tabeshian said, adding that it will enable Tehran to acquire the technology to build satellites.

"We hope that the project will be ready before 2000 and that the satellite will be launched in 2001," he was quoted by the radio as saying.

Turkey appoints independent ministers to Cabinet

ANKARA (AP) — Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz appointed independent politicians to head three key ministries Tuesday in a move to avoid possible abuse of power in the run-up to elections in April.

The ministers for justice, transport and the interior stepped down in line with Turkish laws which say the posts must be taken up by non-partisan bureaucrats or independent politicians.

Kutlu Aktas, the governor of Istanbul, replaced Murat Basoglu as interior minister in charge of security and police.

Independent lawmaker Hasan Denizkurdu replaced Justice Minister Oltan Sunugur and Arif Ahmet Denizoglu, also an independent, took over the transport ministry from Necdet Nenzir.

The non-aligned politicians are appointed to bar any attempt by ruling parties to obstruct election campaigning by rival parties.

Parliament last week set elections for April 18, a year ahead of schedule, in a bid to bring some stability to Turkish politics.

Policewomen return to Iran for first time since 1979 revolution

TEHRAN (AFP) — Policewomen officially rejoined Iran's police force on Monday for the first time since the 1979 Islamic revolution, a Tehran daily reported Tuesday.

Policewomen went to work in the Caspian Sea province of Mazandaran on Monday, the Jomhuri Islami newspaper reported.

Iran's police force inaugurated a training centre for

policewomen last month. Initially the policewomen will work in a special squad charged with combating "vice and social depravity."

They will be responsible in particular for enforcing the Islamic republic's strict dress code for women.

Since the 1979 Islamic revolution, women have been obliged to cover their hair with a headscarf and to wear ankle-length coats.

Women who do not observe the Islamic dress code risk arrest. Before release they receive "verbal guidance," are required to make a written undertaking to observe the Islamic dress code in future and can also be ordered to pay a fine.

Women served in the police force under the shah but since the Islamic revolution women have been restricted to office duties.

Israeli police question militant settler over violence in Hebron

HEBRON (AFP) — Israeli police briefly arrested on Tuesday a militant Jewish settler from Hebron wanted for questioning in a series of attacks on Palestinians in the Arab city, officials said.

Baruch Marzel, a former spokesman of the now outlawed anti-Arab movement Kach, had repeatedly refused police summons to answer allegations he was involved in a number of assaults on Palestinian residents of Hebron.

He was forcibly removed by police early Tuesday from his home in the heavily guarded enclave where some 400 zealous Jewish settlers live in the centre of Hebron, a city of 120,000 Palestinians.

After being questioned for several hours, Marzel was released on bail, a police spokesman said.

The Kach movement, which calls for the expulsion of Arabs from Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories, was outlawed in 1994 after a symposium

threw 29 Muslim worshippers in Hebron's main mosque.

But the movement's followers remain active through various groups, including a "Road Defence Committee" which regularly attacks Palestinian cars in the West Bank.

Israeli troops withdrew from 85 per cent of Hebron in January 1997 under the terms of the Oslo peace accords but they remain in control of the Jewish settler enclave in the city centre.

Turkish caricaturist imprisoned

ANKARA (AFP) — A caricaturist for two pro-Kurdish papers which have closed down was imprisoned Monday in Turkey for "insults and attacks on the state," the pro-Kurd daily Ulkede Gundem reported Tuesday.

The caricaturist, Dogan Guzel, was held in an Istanbul jail having been questioned by

police last Friday, according to the paper.

Mr. Guzel broke article 159 of the Turkish penal code when writing "the cowardly republic of Turkey" in four of his cartoons. He was sentenced to 10 months for each offence — a total of 40 months in jail.

The cartoons were published

in the daily pro-Kurd papers Ozgur Uke and Ozgur Gundem, which were already under suspicion by the Turkish government for publishing pro-PKK (Kurdish Labour Party) propaganda.

The caricaturist's lawyer, Osman Ergin, said the sentence showed that the authorities had no "sense of humour."



98-YEAR-OLD QUEEN MOTHER: The Queen Mother smiles as she receives a birthday gift from a young wellwisher outside her London home, Clarence House, Tuesday. The Queen Mother is celebrating her 98th birthday (Reuters photo)

Yemen imposes death penalty on kidnappers

SANAA (R) — Yemen's president has issued a decree imposing the death penalty for kidnapping, the official daily Al Thawra reported.

Thieves frequently use abductions to vent their grievances against the government or foreign oil companies working in the country and to push for better services in their often remote tribal areas.

More than 100 foreigners, including diplomats but mainly tourists, have been kidnapped since 1992. Most were released unharmed.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh's decree, published on Monday,

called for "the imposition of the death penalty for anyone who leads a band of kidnappers or bandits or who loots public or private property. Partners in crime will receive the same punishment."

The presidential decree has immediate effect, but can theoretically be overturned by parliament after its current summer recess. Parliament, which is dominated by Mr. Saleh's General People's Congress Party, usually approves presidential decrees.

Yemen's cabinet last week approved a draft law making kidnapping and hijacking a crime punishable by death.

Executions in Yemen are usually carried out by firing squad. Leading tribesmen on Sunday condemned the use of kidnapping to press for demands and pledged to try peaceful means in the future.

Yemen, a poor nation on the southern tip of the Arabian peninsula, wants to find new sources of income as it implements a tough economic reform programme.

A Yemeni official last month warned that the country's tourism sector, which generated revenues of more than \$100 million last year, could be hit by the kidnappings.

U.N. team ends mission in 'complex' Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — A high-profile U.N. panel left Algiers on Tuesday saying it now had a "clearer idea" of the situation in the violence-torn North African country.

The team flew out after an unprecedented fact-finding mission which took it to the sites of gruesome massacres of civilians, to a high-security prison and into talks with generals, ministers, diplomats and opposition figures.

"We have concluded our mission that covered the political, security and economic realities in Algeria," former Prime Minister Abdel Karim Al Kabarti, a panel member, told reporters at the airport.

Led by former Portuguese President Mario Soares, the six-strong group flew to Lisbon to prepare a report for U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan on its two-week visit.

Before leaving, they held a fourth meeting at the airport with Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmad Attal, who has coordinated the wide-ranging mission.

The panel met President Liamine Zerroual only once. Mr. Kabarti described those talks, on Monday, as "thorough and very transparent."

"He [Zerroual] really wrapped up the whole situation that Algeria is living through," he said.

Mr. Soares was more cautious during a briefing on Monday evening at the airport town of Ghardania, some 630 kilometres south of the capital Algiers.

"After talking to tens and tens of people, [from] the president... to the man in the street, we obviously have a clearer idea of the situation," he said.

"But it is still very difficult and very complex... for someone from abroad to start giving an

opinion," he added.

Mr. Soares said Mr. Annan would take part in the panel's meeting in Lisbon due to start on Wednesday and last until August 11. "We'll report what we've heard and seen to Mr. Annan. He'll do what he sees fit with our report," he added.

Western diplomats said they expected Mr. Annan to visit Algiers to discuss the report with Mr. Zerroual before making it public.

Sources close to the panel have said the team would be studying "hundreds of documents and testimony" accumulated during its mission.

These included charges against the army by the opposition and human rights activists of alleged extra-judicial killings, forced disappearances and torture of Islamist opponents.

Asked if there was any attempt by Algeria to obstruct their mis-

sion, Mr. Kabarti said: "Our mandate was very clear and we stuck by it. We didn't have any problems regarding our work and access to sources of information."

Algeria, eager to dispel widespread allegations of human rights abuses, pledged full access to the mission as long as it did not meet leaders of the now banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

The panel respected that condition, but has met lawyers who defended FIS leaders and also human rights activists close to Islamists.

"We were keen to receive three lawyers close to Islamists so that we can say in our report that we have listened to all the parties," Mr. Kabarti said.

Mr. Kabarti said a planned trip to Blida, 50 kilometres south of Algiers, had been cancelled for "security reasons."



Spanking children reduces their intelligence

WASHINGTON (R) — Children who are never spanked, or hardly ever spanked, fare better on some intelligence tests than children who are frequently spanked, researchers say. It could be because parents who do not spank their children spend more time talking to them and reasoning with them, the researchers said. "Some parents think this is a waste of time, but research shows that such verbal parent-child interactions enhance the child's cognitive ability."

On top of the symbol

PUDDLETOWN (AFP) — A British couple told Tuesday how they spent five years trying for a baby only to conceive after having sex on top of an ancient hillside fertility symbol. Andy and Sandy Thorn made love on the 60-metre long, Ceme Abbas Giant carved onto a chalk hillside near their home in Puddletown on the south coast last August. Six weeks later, in October 34-year-old Sandy found she was pregnant, and two weeks ago she gave birth to Ryan.

Why not in the summer?

ROME (R) — Italian men claim to be remarkably faithful during the summer when many wives are away at the beach or in the mountains with the children, a poll showed, just 20 per cent of the men questioned, said they would consider betraying their wives in their absence. While 24 per cent said they become unfaithful to combat loneliness, 18 per cent said they were convinced their partners would do the same and 15 per cent because they were sexually bored. Another 11 per cent said their irresistible urges were provoked by the summer weather, while 10 per cent said they betrayed their wives all year round, so why not in the summer?

Less skin at Mississippi

GULFPORT (AP) — Showgirls dancing at two casinos on the Mississippi Gulf Coast have been ordered to show less skin, State Alcohol Beverage Control agents called for more modesty after taking a peek at some of the Las Vegas-style shows. Costumes were altered to add fabric to thighs at Biloxi's Grand Theatre and the Grand Showroom in Gulfport.

Painting with blood

VIENNA (R) — Austrian artist Hermann Nitsch, ignoring the protests of animal rights activists, defiantly led the start of a six-day festival during which he planned to kill pigs and bulls and paint pictures with their blood. The controversial show went ahead despite protests from former French screen actress Brigitte Bardot and Austrian far-right Freedom Party leader Jörg Haider.

Extinct dove not extinct after all

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. researchers said they had found a treasure trove of species on the tiny, little-known Caribbean island of Navassa. A dove thought to have been extinct and several undocumented plant species were found on the island in the Greater Antilles. "We suspected that the expedition would identify surprisingly large numbers of species," Roger McManus, president of the Washington-based Centre for Marine Conservation, which took part in the study, said in a statement. "We are thrilled that the team's findings have more than exceeded our expectations."

Countdown to crisis starts as Iraq gambles on end to inspections

By Paul Taylor
Diplomatic Editor

LONDON (R) — The countdown to a new crisis between Iraq and the West has begun with President Saddam Hussein gambling on forcing an end to U.N. arms inspections and sanctions without incurring an American military strike, analysts say.

The head of the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM), Richard Butler, broke off talks and left Baghdad on Tuesday after his plan to accelerate the dismantling of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction was rejected. Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz accused Mr. Butler of playing "tricks and games" at the behest of the United States and said Baghdad would reassess its relations

with UNSCOM in the light of its "manoeuvre, protraction and blackmail."

His outburst also reflected a belief that despite pledges of "light at the end of the tunnel" if Iraq cooperated with the inspectors, Washington remains implacably hostile to lifting economic sanctions as long as President Saddam remains in power.

"One must assume Iraq has decided that whatever cooperation it has been providing for UNSCOM since February is not going to achieve an end to the oil embargo by October, so what's the point," said Rosemary Hollis, head of the Middle East programme at Britain's Royal Institute of International Affairs.

The stage is set for a re-run of last February's crisis between Baghdad and the

United Nations. But while the United States has lost further ground in the Middle East because of its failure to bring about an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, President Saddam's standing in the Arab World has improved.

"What has changed is that the Americans won't want it to go so high-profile this time so they don't get to the same impossible situation as last time. So there's reason to expect they will seek a way out," Ms. Hollis said.

Tim Trevan, a former political adviser to UNSCOM, said President Saddam had picked his moment cleverly when the United States was preoccupied by the Monica Lewinsky sex scandal and Europe was more concerned by the fighting in Kosovo.

"Iraq has probably come to

the conclusion that the West's will to threaten war has dissipated entirely, so why should it even go through the motions of cooperating with UNSCOM," Mr. Trevan said.

"It is very reasonable to doubt whether the international community has that will at present," Mr. Trevan said. The crisis was likely to build slowly, given divisions in the U.N. Security Council, and Iraq might even expel UNSCOM completely, at the risk of overplaying its hand.

The United States and Britain might yet decide that UNSCOM had run its course and seek alternative ways of constraining Iraq's ability to rebuild an arsenal of chemical and biological weapons with the missiles to deliver them, he said.

In a speech on July 17 mark-

ing the 30th anniversary of the 1968 coup that brought the Baath Party to power, President Saddam told Iraqis the sanctions imposed in the Gulf War would gradually crumble rather than be lifted by the U.N. Security Council.

If he believes Washington is bent on keeping sanctions and Arab countries are so exasperated with U.S. Middle East policy that they will gradually trade with him anyway, the only incentive for him to cooperate with UNSCOM would be fear of a military strike that could smash his grip on power, analysts argue.

That prospect seems more remote than in February, when U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan brokered an agreement to avert a threat of U.S. and British bombing. Under the deal, Iraq rescind-

ed the expulsion of American arms monitors in return for "white-glove" diplomatic accompaniment for inspections of so-called presidential sites.

The United States withdrew one of its two aircraft carrier battle groups from the Gulf in April and Britain pulled out its only carrier.

Washington Post columnist Jim Hoagland reported that U.S. President Bill Clinton had secretly decided at that time not to retaliate automatically against President Saddam if the inspectors were kicked out again.

To reassemble such a force for the second time in a year would be slow and expensive and also require a major air campaign if neighbouring Saudi Arabia and Turkey again refused to make their

bases available, as happened in February.

Political support for military action against Iraq might be even more difficult to assemble, given persistent divisions in the Security Council, deadlock in the Arab-Israeli peace process and a widespread "Iraq fatigue" in Western public opinion eight years almost to the day after President Saddam invaded Kuwait.

The United States could argue that it has authority to strike Iraq without consulting the Security Council by virtue of a March resolution which threatened the "severe consequences" if Baghdad obstructed the arms inspectors, again.

But Russia, France and China would certainly disagree and press for a diplomatic solution.

Regent sends cable to...
AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday sent a cable to the president of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, on the occasion of the 32nd anniversary of his constitutional powers. The Regent said the cable expressed the appreciation of the Jordanian people for the leadership of the UAE.

Volume 23 Number 6909

Iraq free with UN

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton said Wednesday that Iraq's weapons inspectors could return to Iraq if the United States and the United Nations Security Council agreed to lift the sanctions against Iraq.

The president said that the United States has been "completely satisfied" with the work of the inspectors and that the United States is ready to lift the sanctions if the United Nations Security Council agrees.

President Clinton said that the United States is ready to lift the sanctions if the United Nations Security Council agrees to lift the sanctions against Iraq.

President Clinton said that the United States is ready to lift the sanctions if the United Nations Security Council agrees to lift the sanctions against Iraq.

President Clinton said that the United States is ready to lift the sanctions if the United Nations Security Council agrees to lift the sanctions against Iraq.

President Clinton said that the United States is ready to lift the sanctions if the United Nations Security Council agrees to lift the sanctions against Iraq.

President Clinton said that the United States is ready to lift the sanctions if the United Nations Security Council agrees to lift the sanctions against Iraq.

President Clinton said that the United States is ready to lift the sanctions if the United Nations Security Council agrees to lift the sanctions against Iraq.

President Clinton said that the United States is ready to lift the sanctions if the United Nations Security Council agrees to lift the sanctions against Iraq.

President Clinton said that the United States is ready to lift the sanctions if the United Nations Security Council agrees to lift the sanctions against Iraq.

President Clinton said that the United States is ready to lift the sanctions if the United Nations Security Council agrees to lift the sanctions against Iraq.

President Clinton said that the United States is ready to lift the sanctions if the United Nations Security Council agrees to lift the sanctions against Iraq.

President Clinton said that the United States is ready to lift the sanctions if the United Nations Security Council agrees to lift the sanctions against Iraq.

President Clinton said that the United States is ready to lift the sanctions if the United Nations Security Council agrees to lift the sanctions against Iraq.

President Clinton said that the United States is ready to lift the sanctions if the United Nations Security Council agrees to lift the sanctions against Iraq.

President Clinton said that the United States is ready to lift the sanctions if the United Nations Security Council agrees to lift the sanctions against Iraq.

President Clinton said that the United States is ready to lift the sanctions if the United Nations Security Council agrees to lift the sanctions against Iraq.

President Clinton said that the United States is ready to lift the sanctions if the United Nations Security Council agrees to lift the sanctions against Iraq.

President Clinton said that the United States is ready to lift the sanctions if the United Nations Security Council agrees to lift the sanctions against Iraq.

President Clinton said that the United States is ready to lift the sanctions if the United Nations Security Council agrees to lift the sanctions against Iraq.